PETERSEN'S 15TH

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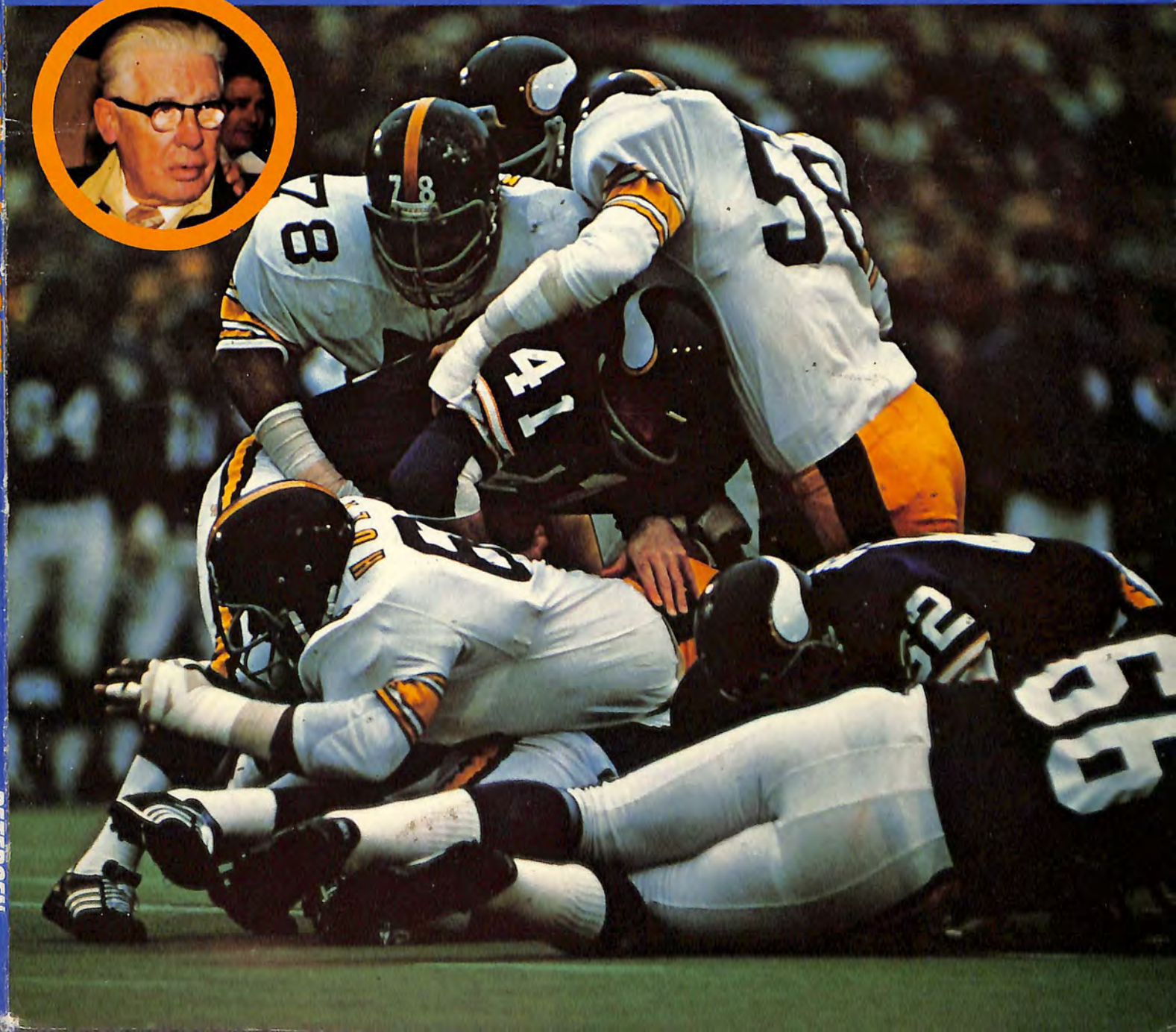
PRO FOOTBALL

1975 ANNUAL

1975 OFFICIAL SCHEDULES • ROSTERS OF ALL TEAMS, NFL, CFL • FRED BILETNIKOFF • JOE GREENE • JAMES HARRIS • SUPER BOWL: YEAR 2000 TRICKS OF THE TRADES • SB IX PLAY-BY-PLAY • OFFICIAL 1974 STATISTICS

ART ROONEY AND HIS PITTSBURGH STEELERS



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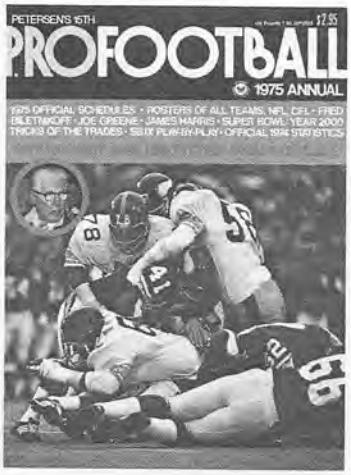

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COVER

Pittsburgh Steelers' owner Art Rooney (inset) waited 42 years for his team to get it all together as they did on January 12 with a decisive 16-6 pummeling of the Minnesota Vikings. The name of the game was defense and the name of the victory was Super Bowl IX: Hail the world champion Pittsburgh Steelers! Action photo by Peter Read Miller; Art Rooney photo by Harry Homa. Cover design by Dick Fischer.

KEEP ME BY YOUR TV SET

I am more than an annual book about professional football. I am a handy-dandy, large-sized reference book for your TV viewing during the 1975 season. By checking the table of contents on the opposite page, you'll find our rosters of the teams, a roster of game officials, a WFL report, a look at the CFL, Super Bowl reference data, the maturity chart, the easy/tough schedule chart, profiles of top players, charts tracing top NFL trade-strings and many other stories and reference pieces for the season. Also, I am a book and I have a theme and I'm written to be read left-to-right, cover-to-cover. Then, when you've read me,
KEEP ME BY YOUR TV SET

PETERSEN'S 15TH PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL 1975

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OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS . . .

A MATTER OF TIME

CHUCK BENEDICT
Editor-In-Chief

Time: A prolific word. A quick glance at FUNK & WAGNALLS reveals no other single word requiring so much space. A fascinating afternoon is in store for one who has the "time" to study all its meanings.

In professional football, the word is right at home. It's an inevitable consideration in almost every facet of the game. When the game begins, time starts. When time ends, the game ends. Teams in the lead have more time than they want. Trailing teams beg for more. A time-out may be called three times each half. The receiver misses the ball because of bad timing. A quarterback throws the ball out of bounds to buy more time. Then he calls two plays in one huddle to save time. The tackler arises slowly to use up time. The fans have a good time, even the radio listener who tunes in the game while doing time. The clock runs out in the nick of time. The losers talk about winning next time. The winners say it was about time.

In Petersen's 15th PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL 1975, we look at some of professional football's many applications of "time."

Bob Oates, in his keynote story, sees time as an inevitability in the recent history of Don Shula. Sam Bechtel finds time the biggest challenge to a 42-year history of near-infinite patience, as he profiles Art Rooney. Bob Markus finds in football's hurry-up offense a tendency to let too much time pass before an effort is made to buy time's precious moments. Pat Richter tells how time

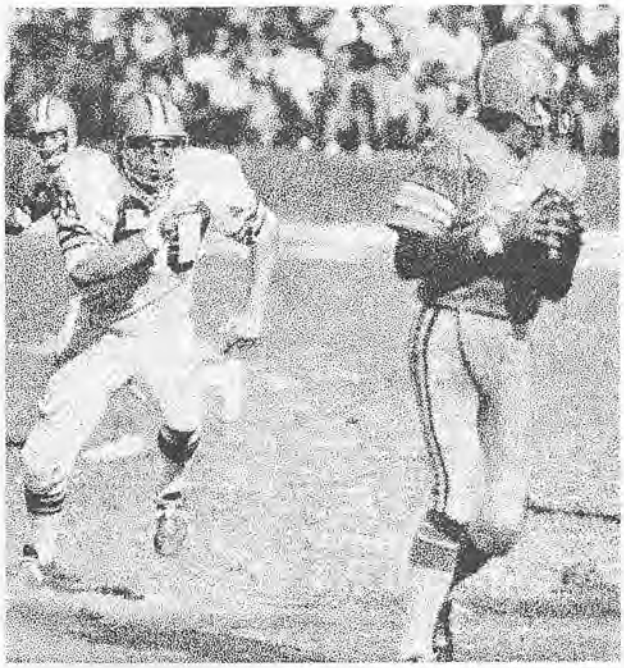
created a full circle of instruction for an unaware Raymond Berry, football's best-ever pass receiving theorist. Art Spander sees time as a point of precision for Fred Biletnikoff, a master of pass-timing.

We see time as the only true evaluator of a team's history of trading players. Rich Roberts discovers that the timing of James Harris' maturity was perfect, socially and professionally. Jerry Green sees time as the crutch of the game's rebels and as the redesigner of pro football's executive structure.

The maturity factor credits teams with the most aggregate playing time. The readers and our resident experts, Vin DiTrani and Mal Florence, predict the NFL races by trying to bypass a span of time. New enshrinees are eligible for the Hall of Fame after waiting out their time. Tommy Prothro spends 50 days dieting and his new look is a waist of time well spent. The WFL says it's ready this time, despite our editorial concept that it still faces hard times.

The matter of time thematically underscores this book. We hope you'll read it. All it takes is a little time.

Chuck Benedict



IT WAS ONLY . . .

A MATTER OF TIME

. . . FOR DON SHULA AND THE **AFC**

BY BOB OATES

Conforming to its recent traditions, Super Bowl IX was a mismatch last January. Getting there had been a problem for the Pittsburgh Steelers but the rest was a picnic. The Minnesota Vikings turned out to be a 16-6 pushover, and, describing them later, Pittsburgh defensive end Dwight White said:

"They're big and strong but I question their agility, just how mobile they are. They are kind of heavy. I guess in Minnesota you don't sweat much."

Then, remembering the long season, White said plaintively: "I just wish we could have played against them (the Vikings) more."

It was a comment reminiscent of some of the things Green Bay said about Kansas City after the first Super Bowl game 10 years ago. Vince Lombardi, the Green Bay coach, had been harassed by the press until he finally blurted "the truth" about the American Football League, namely that it was inferior.

No more.

AFL teams, representing what is now known as the American Football Conference, have won six of their last seven championship appearances against teams from the old NFL, now the National Conference.

In Super Bowl IX Pittsburgh made it three in a row for the American Conference after the Miami Dolphins had won VII and VIII.

So there is a considerable body of evidence to support the notion that this conference has become the strongest in football, but how did it happen? And when?

It seems probable in retrospect that the turning-point year was 1970.

After Coach Don Shula jumped from the Colts to the Dolphins that spring, it was only a matter of time until the AFC superseded the NFC as the NFL's dominant conference.

Since the days when Shula was building his first great Miami team (the 10-4 team in 1970) on the wreckage of a 3-10-1 season in 1969, the American Conference has been on its winning way.

The first indication of a change in football's balance of power was, of course, the sudden series of wins by the Dolphins. And it is clear now, secondly, that the rest of the American Conference has had to improve to keep up with them. To survive—to reach the Super Bowl—an AFC team must be competitive with the Dolphins. It must be good enough to beat them. Thus it is competition that has made the AFC strong. Shula's successes and the AFC's struggles to keep up with them have been the making of that conference.

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In the National Conference, by contrast, teams like Los Angeles and Minnesota—good but not great teams—haven't had much to beat. The NFC's Western and Central Divisions are the worst and least competitive in the league. Whereas the AFC is competitive in all three divisions, the NFC is only strong in one, the East. And even there, a standout team, a Miami-kind of rival, is lacking.

To be sure, AFC (or AFL) representatives won the Super Bowl twice in the years before Shula jumped. He was still an NFC (or NFL) coach when Joe Namath and the New York Jets upset Baltimore in 1969, 16-7, and when Kansas City routed Minnesota in January, 1970, 23-7.

But the course of football subsequently wasn't significantly altered by either of those winners. Super Bowls III and IV set off plenty of sparks but few trends. Though Namath's win made the new league respectable and identified him as one of the great quarterbacks of all time, the Jets didn't follow it up. On the contrary, they promptly slumped. Nor were their policies and particular techniques emulated anywhere else in the league.

Indeed, within minutes of Super Bowl III, the Jets were being dismissed as rather lucky. Even in their own league it was said that in a rematch with Baltimore they couldn't have won. More than anything else, Super Bowl III stands out as a monument to the heights that can be reached by one man in a 22-man team game. Namath is probably the most underrated athlete of his era in any sport.

2

PHOTO BY PETER READ MILLER

1. Don Shula left the Baltimore Colts and went to Miami, turning the Dophins into an elite regiment from a bunch of near deserters. This set the AFC in motion back in 1970.

2. In the NFC, George Allen's Redskins retain strength, but overall the NFC lacks the vigor of the AFC.

3. Chuck Knox is flanked by Don Klosterman, general manager, and Carroll Rosenbloom, owner, of the L.A. Rams. No trio represents better leadership, but conference is weak.

4. Pete Rozelle, NFL commissioner, and Art Rooney, Steeler owner, one of the ablest talent scouts around.

As for Kansas City's big win over Minnesota in game IV, it was more convincing than Namath's. Yet, otherwise, it wasn't really historic. Coach Hank Stram's prophecy that he had unveiled the "offense of the '70s" proved wrong. Only a few of the original aspects of that offense took hold in football and almost none have been in the mainstream of the river as it has since flowed in pro ball.

This isn't to say Stram misfired. The fact is that his performance as a coach in game IV has never been surpassed in the Super Bowl, not by Vince Lombardi in the early years nor later by Shula. Equaled possibly, but not ex-

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ceeded. Kansas City's problems since that day have been due to personnel breakdowns and it may be that a case can be made against Stram as a personnel director. But in the era of his two Super Bowl appearances he was a great football coach.

The irony of the 1970s is that the coaches and players who first brought down the old NFL—Namath, Stram, and the other Jets and Chiefs—have played such a small role in the establishment of the AFL (or AFC) as the league's dominant conference today. Neither team recently has been a big winner.

It has remained for Shula to chart the direction of the conference and, by extension, the league in the 1970s. He's the coach the others have mirrored. And because AFC people copied him first, and most extensively, they've made the most progress.

A RUNNING OFFENSE

Shula's contributions have been in both football departments, offense and defense. To begin with, he is the father of modern zone defense. In Shula's time as a coach the entire theory of defense has changed, and he has had the most to do with it.

Secondly, it was Shula who put the run back in football. In the year he jumped to Miami, the pass was still pro football's supreme weapon. That is, the good offenses were based on the pass or the threat of the pass.

In his first season at Miami, Shula sharply changed tack, basing his offense on running plays by Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick. The pass became a last-resort weapon, usually saved for third down, or occasionally as a change of pace on any down. In some of Miami's biggest wins, quarterback Bob Griese has dispatched no more than six or seven passes.

Defensively, when Shula put in his network of zones at Baltimore in the 1960s, the preferred way in the NFL was one-on-one coverage. That was the way Lombardi did it in Green Bay, and Lombardi was a bigger winner than Shula. So it was Lombardi who was emulated.

Not until Shula's success with his no-name defense in Miami were the principles of nearly total reliance on zone techniques widely accepted by NFL people.

Offensively, after Miami's success as a run-dominated team in 1970, the rest of the NFL was likewise slow to catch on. At first only one of the 25 other head coaches understood. This was George Allen, who, with Sonny Jurgensen available, grounded him and based his offense on Larry Brown's feet. Allen's 1972 team got to the Super Bowl running the ball. Since then, because of backfield injuries and problems, he's had to throw it—and he hasn't been back. Although the Redskins led the conference in passing last year, their mediocre running attack stopped them short of the Super Bowl.

Shula didn't make it last winter either but his ideas won again. Giving the ball to Franco Harris, Pittsburgh ran Minnesota out of New Orleans on a day when Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw looked like one of Bud Wilkinson's old Oklahoma quarterbacks—though he didn't throw the ball as often as some of them did.

As for Pittsburgh's defensive players, it is true that they're not individually in the Miami mold. The Steeler front four, for instance, is much tougher. The Steelers' defensive strategy is, however, similar to Miami's. They're a zone defense team making the most of their linebackers in the pass defense in the way Shula has done it since his Baltimore days.

Most of the other American Conference teams also have been greatly influenced by the Dolphins. Each year they meet them more often than NFC teams do and see more of their films. Thus AFC coaches are continuously reminded that if they're ever going to the Super Bowl, they'll have to beat the Dolphins first.

AFC coaches, in short, are overwhelmingly Miami-conscious. And over a period of time, this has had a salutary effect on their teams. In striving for enough excellence to beat Shula, they have acquired enough to win handily from most of their NFC opposition.

THE IMPREGNABLE ZONE

The effects of the "Shula Revolution" are now visible throughout the American Conference. Oakland provides one of the clearest examples with (1) a defensive platoon that has steadily moved away from its old stance as a determined man-for-man team, and (2) an offensive platoon that frequently runs the ball today when it would rather pass as it used to do.

The flashy Raiders of the 1960s and early 1970s were pro football's last

A MATTER OF TIME

great long-passing team and sometimes they still try to win that way; last winter, in fact, they beat Miami with an incredible sequence of four touchdown passes. But as a rule, too much luck is needed for the Raiders to plan on winning that way, and so like everybody else, they run. Forced to learn to run, they have developed a sound ground game.

On defense last season almost every AFC coaching staff embraced Shula's principles. His 3-8 defense was used on occasion by all and as the basic defense by several who discarded the NFL's conventional 4-3-4 (four linemen, three linebackers).

When Shula introduced the 3-8, Miami people called it the 53 in honor of Bob Matheson, who wears that uniform number. Matheson was the club's fourth linebacker; when inserted, he replaced a defensive lineman, and his appearance on the field signaled Miami's changeover to a three-man line on passing downs.

The 53 also could mean the arrangement of pass defense zones behind the three-man line in many of Shula's defensive alignments: five short zones, three deep.

In Shula's 53, of course, the zone alignment isn't always five short and three deep—but there are usually eight zones of one kind or another. Accordingly, this defense is best pictured as a 3-8. The passers think of it that way in pointing out the trouble areas: the heavy rush that can be mounted by even three defensive linemen fronting an eight-man zone defense.

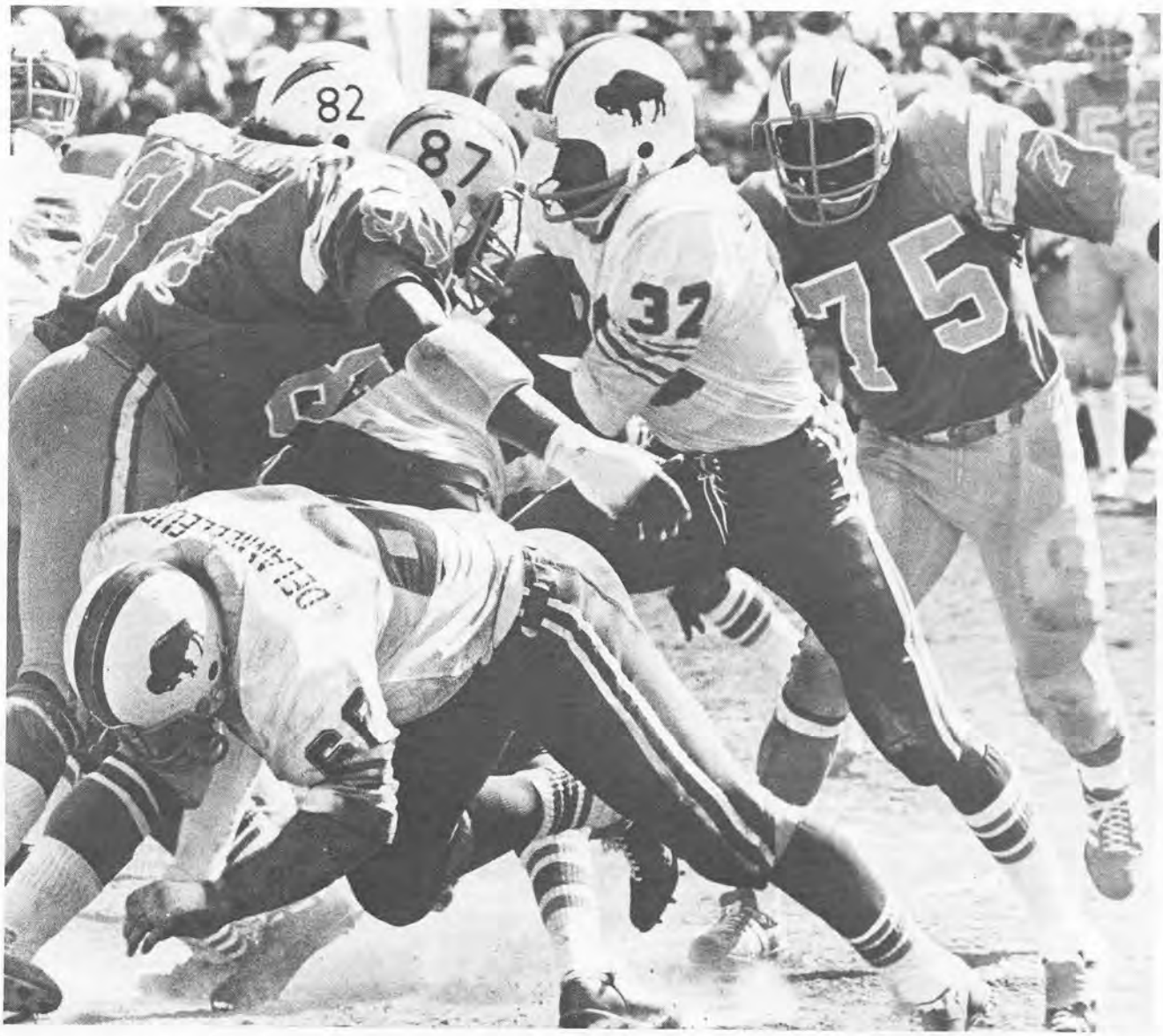
As Dallas President Tex Schramm says, if there isn't a soul on the field except the passer and eight zoning defensive players—and if the passer is standing on the 50-yard line—he can't hit the ground with any kind of standard NFL pass. One of his eight opponents will invariably get a hand on the ball no matter where he throws it.

The 3-8 is that tough, and among the teams that not only borrowed it last year but used it as a basic defense, Houston and New England had the most success. Before the Patriots were shot down by injuries they stopped the best teams in the league with their version of the 3-8, including Miami, Los Angeles, Minnesota and the Jets, blanking Joe Namath, 24-0.

Houston ended the frustrations of back-to-back 1-13 seasons with a similar defense last year, improving to 7-7.

By the end of the 1974 campaign it was being said by some NFL coaches that the 3-8 was dead as a basic defense. And despite the success of New England, Houston and others, it may be. But unless the rules are changed, it will at least remain in the playbooks of most defensive coaches for use on passing downs, the way Shula still uses it.

Before he developed the 3-8, the customary defensive tactic on third-and-long in pro ball was the benching of a linebacker or two and the addition of one or two defensive backs. And these are still common changes. In Washington, George Allen's nickel defense includes five defensive backs behind a 4-2 front. In



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1. One of the players who follows Coach Don Shula's philosophies is the redoubtable O.J. Simpson. His explosive running ability is one of the factors that is turning football back into a running game.

2. Bill Dudley was Steeler's star HB in the early days, 1942-46.

3. John Madden's Raiders had one of the last great passing offenses. Now they, too, are learning to run again.

4. Baltimore's general manager, Joe Thomas, is putting the team under new coaching to revitalize its playing. The Colts will become runners.

his dime defense he doubles the number of additional defensive backs to get six altogether behind a 4-1.

Allen believes in substituting for linebackers instead of linemen, thus retaining the hammer of his famous four-man rush.

Most coaches, however, don't strike quite the terror with their front fours that Allen somehow gets with his. And the special genius of Shula in this area of football was in showing the world that you can get enough rush with a front three if you carefully deploy the back eight.

Not to insult history, it should be noted at this point that several high school coaches and one college coach, John McKay of USC, were ahead of Shula in the development of a three-man line with four linebackers. McKay has won three national championships with his 3-4 and along the way has influenced many others to put it in. Woody Hayes once turned it on McKay to win a memorable Rose Bowl game.

But college coaches befuddle college quarterbacks with many quaint defenses that wouldn't go in the pros. At Miami, Shula's contribution was in coming up with one that would. And his use of it, coupled with its spread in the conference, has been a major factor in the gradual upgrading of the AFC.

BACK TO RUNNING BACKS

Shula's views on the value of running backs have had a more subtle, but no less influential, impact on NFL football in the '70s. With the zone defense he knocked out the league's one-on-one era. With the run, he didn't knock out the pass—quite. Its value, however, has been eroding steadily for five years.

When Shula converted Miami to a running team in 1970—one of pro ball's few great run-dominated teams since the league authorized free substitution in the 1940s—it was not immediately recognized as such. Some critics assumed Shula didn't have much confidence in Bob Griese's passing arm. Others believed Miami was merely making short-term capital of Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick.

For a time, Kiick's ability was greatly overestimated. He was, and is, one of pro football's many good halfbacks—meaning, among other things, that he is a fine receiver and short-yardage runner—but his assets have been overstated. So, in fact, have Csonka's. You do need a good pair of running backs to do what Miami has done in the '70s, but not necessarily this pair. Franco Harris, Lawrence McCutcheon, O.J. Simpson, John Brockington and Floyd Little, to name only five, could have gained what Csonka has produced in a typical season in Shula's offense—and probably a lot more.

It is the offense—not those who play in it—that is principally responsible for Miami's success as a ground team. In other words, it's the coaching that did it. Shula obviously couldn't have done it with bums, but he has succeeded spectacularly with men whose individual talents are considerably less impressive than the sum of the individual parts.

For example, one of Miami's All-Pro guards, Larry Little, had been drummed out of San Diego for his deficiencies as a blocker. Indeed he has never ranked with the great pass blockers of the NFL. He owes his comeback in Miami largely to the fact that his coach there determined to run the ball and molded Little into a niche where he would fit.

THE RECEIVER'S SACRIFICE

Shula is a coach who has believed for years that the NFL's old John Unitas-Vince Lombardi way—building on the pass and the threat of the pass—was a mistake. He believed it in Baltimore. But there, as a young man on his first job as a head coach, he was in an organization with an established great quarterback, Unitas. Five and six years before Shula got the Baltimore job, Unitas had led the Colts to two NFL championships. And when they joined forces, Unitas was still in his prime. Shula wasn't about to interfere with a good thing.

Still, throughout his career in Bal-

A MATTER OF TIME

timore directing a team that won recurrently with big-play passes, Shula was tinkering with an offense that could operate successfully for long periods without the assistance of the thrown ball. And when he moved to Miami, he installed it, dismaying Paul Warfield, among others.

All this time in Miami, through the prime of his career, Warfield has been participating as a decoy for Csonka, often taking two or three defensive players far away from what thus became a wide-open road for the big fullback and for Kiick as well, and later Mercury Morris.

Warfield didn't like not catching passes but he liked not losing better. Probably the game's greatest pass receiver, he has sacrificed himself to the winning of two Super Bowls, playing the part of the woman spy who lures a foreign general into an out-of-the-way motel so her troops can destroy the other troops.

The exact principles and techniques of Miami's ground offense haven't been widely copied in the league, just the philosophy. Many other teams have joined Miami in hardly throwing the ball so long as the game is in doubt.

Total Passes has become an all but meaningless statistic. The average pro team today throws the majority of its passes not in the mainstream of a close contest but at odd moments, perhaps the last two minutes of the half when it is far behind, or when, for surprise effect, it throws some kind of safe pass on first down.

The cumulative effect of all this—zone defenses, the run-dominated offense, keeping up with Miami, etc.—was first felt in the American Conference and has taken deepest root there. And so the Americans grow progressively stronger from year to year.

In the National Conference there isn't a comparable spur. Nobody over there worries too much about Minnesota or Washington or even Dallas. The Rams are undoubtedly on the rise with a sagacious owner, Carroll Rosenbloom, and the NFL's finest new coach, Chuck Knox, but to date Los Angeles hasn't inspired the same kind of competitive urge among NFC people that Miami raises in AFC breasts.

It is worth noting only that the Rams are more like the Dolphins in the way they play football than any other NFC team.

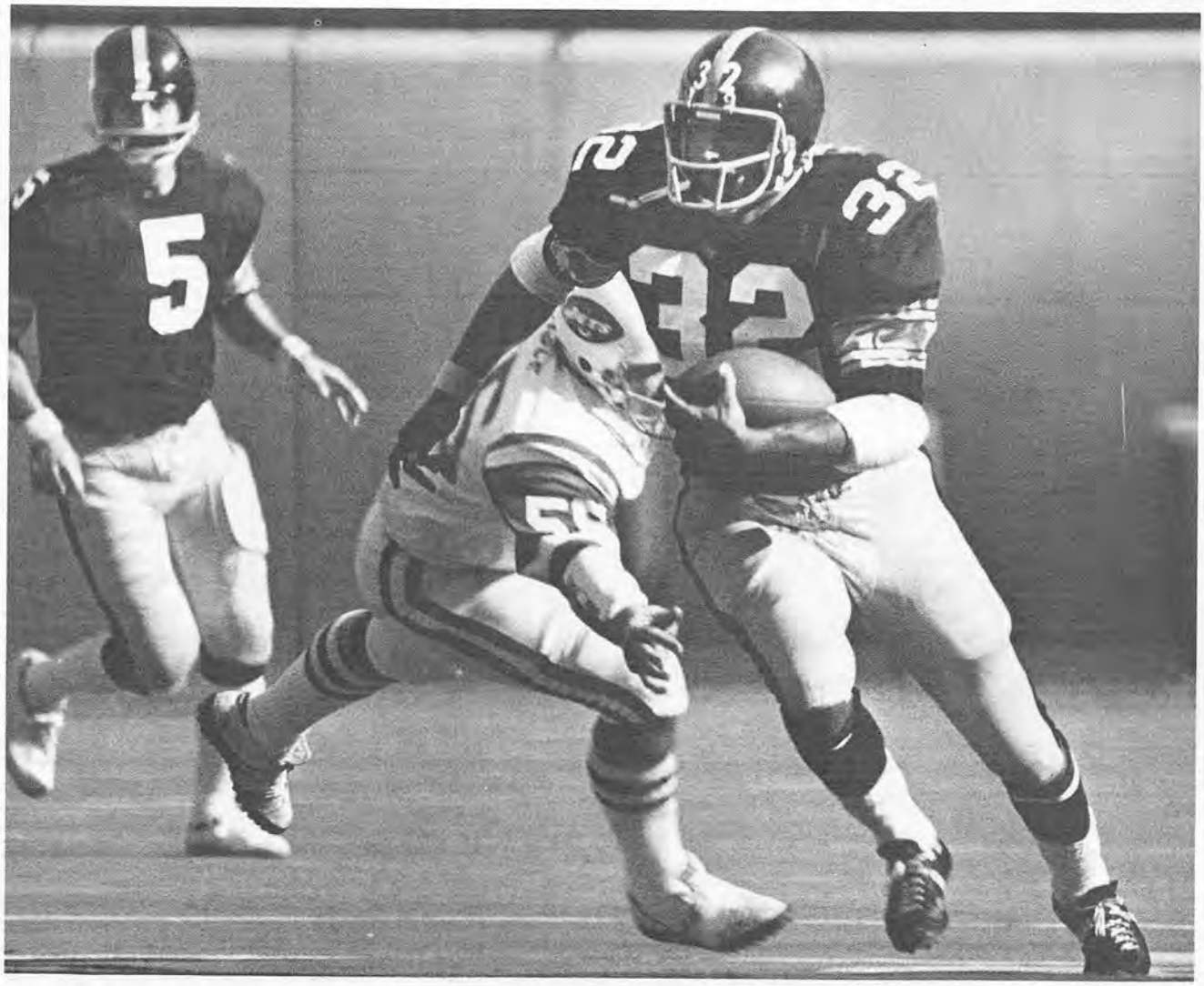
IT TAKES TWO

AFC leadership generally in this era, including Shula and Joe Robbie of Miami, seems stronger or luckier or both than most of the NFC's. This is probably a corollary reason for the rise of the AFC in a world so long dominated by the NFC's (read NFL's) old guard.

Though Robbie has been a frequent target for newspaper attacks in this decade, the record shows him to be an exceptional owner. He has a knack for hiring winners. During Miami's expansion days, at a time when a nucleus of talented personnel was the Dolphin need, Robbie brought in one of the most successful of the personnel executives, Joe Thomas.

Then after a winning crew of players had been assembled, at a time when Thomas wanted to take charge as general manager, Robbie vetoed the idea and imported a proved winner as vice president and coach, Shula.

Al Davis of Oakland is another obviously gifted executive. A man who hasn't had Robbie's luck in Super Bowls, Davis nonetheless remains one



of the great football winners of all time, college or pro.

Paul Brown is in the American Conference. So are Joe Namath and O.J. Simpson, the two best player-leaders in football. And so are the Rooneys of Pittsburgh who, after many years in which few sang of their intellectual capacity for football management, have finally gotten the hang of it.

PHOTO BY PETER READ MILLER

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1. Franco Harris, RB for Pittsburgh, eludes a Jet tackler. Hampered by injuries in '73, he has regained his '72 form, when he was named NFL offensive rookie of the year.

2. Veteran QB Unitas, with headset, confers with young Charger QB Dan Fouts. The latter's job role will be quite different from that of Unitas'.

3. Miami's Larry Csonka in action. He learned his coach's ideas well.

Art Rooney Jr. is one executive who long has believed in multiple-team scouting: the combines that have changed the face of pro football recruiting in recent seasons. And as with most innovators, Rooney has become one of the first to profit. A dozen scouts now comb the country for his combine (Blesto VIII) tipping prospects Rooney researches at greater depth with his own scouts. Most teams do it that way now, of course, but Rooney has been doing it longer than many and better than most.

At one recent draft table, Art and his brother Dan, the club's able general manager, selected seven college boys who started for the champion Steelers in Super Bowl IX last January. Thus the Steelers, incredibly, instantly recruited one-third of their starting team in one draft.

As the Rooneys say, that takes some luck, too. The rejoinder is that most of the luck in recent years has come to AFC towns. There are eight strong, viable franchises in the AFC and only five with no immediate Super Bowl pretensions.

Just the reverse is true in the NFC, where there are at least eight clubs with no Super Bowl chance in the foreseeable future and only four or five with some kind of chance.

The NFC winners of the last three winters (Minnesota twice and Washington) may not have been the best teams in their conference but they were comparable with the best (Dallas and Los Angeles).

Yet they weren't comparable with AFC winners. In the last three Super Bowls the National Conference representative has been blown out and each time it looked worse.

Throughout the land, AFC teams are coming up. There are two contenders for the playoffs in the Central Division (Pittsburgh and Cincinnati), two in the West (Oakland and Denver) and four in the East (Miami, Buffalo, New England and the Jets).

In addition, Sid Gillman revitalized Houston last year and the gains can be consolidated this year if the new coach, Bum Phillips, isn't a bum. And on the West Coast, Tommy Prothro seems to be revitalizing the San Diego Chargers.

The other three AFC teams (Cleveland, Baltimore and Kansas City) will be under new coaches—and because of the importance of coaching in pro football, any or all could be contending shortly. Cleveland has most of the personnel it needs and Baltimore is getting it. Of the 13 AFC franchises, Kansas City alone may be looking down a long road.

Otherwise in that conference, the Jets ended 1974 with the league's longest winning streak of the season, seven games. No team played better football than the Patriots before they were ruined by injuries. The Bills and Broncos are each about one good draft short of the Super Bowl. Cincinnati and Pittsburgh look about even to a lot of people in that area.

Miami remains strongest of all and Oakland is perhaps No. 2—but suddenly in the '70s, the AFC has become a hard conference to win.

Meanwhile, the life seems to be going out of the National Conference, for reasons not easy to understand. Only two of the NFC's 13 teams, Los Angeles and St. Louis, reflected the youthful vigor of the AFC in 1974.

Washington, of course, retains great strength and solidity under George Allen. And under Tex Schramm, Dallas has the personnel to contend indefinitely. Both nevertheless lack the vitality of Buffalo, Pittsburgh and other AFC comers.

It can be argued that no NFL team has a brighter future than the Rams in Los Angeles, where Carroll Rosenbloom provides the leadership of a champion. As of 1975, quite probably, Rosenbloom is the nation's leading executive in any sport. But his team is the victim of membership in a weak conference.

AFC OUT OF NFL

Some NFC buffs have suggested that the clubs elevating the AFC into a good conference are the old NFL clubs. And it is true that all (Cleveland, Baltimore and Pittsburgh) have at times done well since the merger of 1970. Two of the six AFC winners of the Super Bowl in the last seven years were teams that jumped ship in 1970, Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

In the mid-'70s, however, it is plain that NFL bloodlines had little to do with the rise of the AFC:

—Cleveland, out of the playoffs for two years, had a losing record last fall and will make it back or not as an AFC team.

—Baltimore has lost the NFL men who made the old Colts great (Rosenbloom, Shula and Unitas) and, like Cleveland, has been outrun lately by most of the purer AFL types, including Cincinnati.

—The other descendant of the old NFL, Pittsburgh, was a flop over there and has been built from the ground up as an AFC team.

In fact, those stretching to credit the NFC for AFC success can point to only one achiever—Don Shula. Before invading Florida, Shula had coached seven years in the old NFL. Although he never won the world championship in those days, it was only a matter of time.

"TRY THE WORD ASSOCIATION GAME"

It's almost like a cleverly conceived and carefully simplified advertising catch-phrase. *When you think of the AFC, think of Don Shula.* That's like: *When you think of plumbing, think of Jake. Jake the plumber.*

Whether or not there is such expert analysis as that of Bob Oates in our keynote story, it probably is true that a fan, in thinking of any NFL team (especially a championship team of the past), thinks of a certain name to go with it. It's like someone saying "1927 Yankees" and immediately you think "Babe Ruth."

So, have a try at the word association game. When you see each team name on the following list, what individual immediately comes to mind?

1. The Cleveland Browns of the early '60s.
2. The Philadelphia Eagles of the late '40s.
3. The Green Bay Packers of the mid-'60s.
4. The Baltimore Colts of the '60s.
5. The Cleveland Rams of 1945.
6. The Washington Redskins of 1937.
7. The Chicago Bears of the '40s.
8. The Chicago Bears of the late '60s.
9. The Cleveland Browns of the AAFC days.
10. The New York Giants of 1963.
11. The Pittsburgh Pirates of 1938. (Football Pirates, that is.)

We'll stab at them, and for kicks, you might see if you agree:

1. Jim Brown. He so dominated his team's offense that the opposition was magnetized into making the almost always futile effort to stop him, thus opening great avenues to teammates.
2. Steve Van Buren. The nearest thing to Jim Brown prior to Jim Brown. He made the Eagle franchise fly.
3. Vince Lombardi. He knit a team of unknowns, misfits and discards into a gang of men who reflected his insatiable desire for victory.
4. Johnny Unitas. Despite the fact that Unitas' three Baltimore head coaches all were Super Bowl winning coaches, Unitas was a bigger image than any of them. He so dominated play that he became the only quarterback in modern times to lead a team to a league title by throwing more often than he handed off to the runners.
5. Bob Waterfield. With a great stone face and nerves of steel, he became the only QB in the last 30 years to lead his team to a title before his third pro year, and he did it as a rookie.
6. Sammy Baugh. He had such unprecedented all-around backfield talent on offense and defense that he overshadowed the coaching of Ray Flaherty and the signal calling of Riley Smith, both of whom were outstanding football men in their time.
7. George Halas. Even in the presence of Curley Lambeau of Green Bay, George Halas emerged in the '40s as the patriarch of the pro game. He was the game of professional football.
8. Dick Butkus. Despite a harrowing start as a defensive signal caller and assignment-buster, Butkus developed a feverish desire to acquire the mental requirements of signal calling, matching his greatest-ever desire to annihilate ball carriers. No defensive lineman or linebacker ever has so magnetized the eyes of those in the grandstand.
9. Paul Brown. Brown's personal strength keyed his amazing post-war roster in 1946; his technical skills developed the Browns' famous offensive dominance, and his pioneering as a 100 percent sideline signal caller created a constant image. And the team's nickname didn't hurt the image, either.
10. Y.A. Tittle. There was something glamorous about a near-bald QB, appearing to be much older than his actual age, coming in from the discard pile to take over a team on the rise and leading it to three straight conference titles.
11. Byron (Whizzer) White. As a rookie from Colorado, he led the NFL in ball carrying as a rookie with Pittsburgh, a lofty position made even loftier in retrospective image when he became a Rhodes scholar, a repeat NFL rushing champion, a top lawyer and eventually a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

In fact, the Pirates-Steelers had many glamorous names pass through their rosters for 42 years, most of them more familiar in name than that of the quiet owner who counted noses and scrounged and contrived to keep the franchise going. However, when the Steelers finally won the Super Bowl, owner Art Rooney, was in more headlines than Bradshaw, or Noll . . . or maybe even Greene.

"THE STEELERS' ROONEY AND GREENE"

ART ROONEY— A MATTER OF PATIENCE

EVEN AFTER 42 YEARS, HE FOUND THE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS FRESH—AND **GREENE**

BY SAM BECHTEL

Arthur J. Rooney waited what was really an eternity for that moment, 5:05 Central Standard Time, January 12, 1975.

He was standing beside National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle on a hastily constructed wooden platform in a cement block building adjacent to Tulane Stadium that very un-New Orleans-like late Sunday afternoon. And he was uncharacteristically nervous.

His 42nd edition of the Pittsburgh Steelers was the tenant of that building that day, and those 47 guys were anything but the "Same Old Steelers" a dwindling legion of Pittsburgh pro football followers had come to know over four decades of frustration.

They were the World Champions. The conquerors of the Minnesota Vikings, 16-6, in Super Bowl IX on a cold, blustery day that once and for all proved that nice guys don't finish last. At least not always.

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As Rozelle presented Rooney with the Vince Lombardi Memorial Trophy, making the championship official, there were few dry eyes among the millions of fans who looked in on television.

Even Rooney shed a tear or two. And they were his only regrets of the happiest day in his life.

"Whenever they came and told me before the game that I was to go down there and accept that award if we won, I started to get worried," he remembered. "I'm not emotional at football games, but if I go to a wake and people break down, I break down right with 'em. I can't help myself. And I was afraid that would happen to me on television. I didn't want to be embarrassed."

Not that Rooney didn't want to be there, understand. But he feared that the quiet dignity that had been his shield and guiding light for more than 40 years of losing would finally desert him in his hour of triumph. So, he politely tried to beg off.

"I told them that I thought they should take Danny (the oldest of his five sons, who now runs the Steelers in his father's shadow as Vice President and General Manager) down to accept the trophy," Rooney recalled. "He does a much better job than I do in that kind of situation."

Rooney was a superb recipient, albeit that there was a trace of a tear or two. "But I really had to steel myself up to keep my composure," he offered. Nobody would have cared had he bawled like a baby.

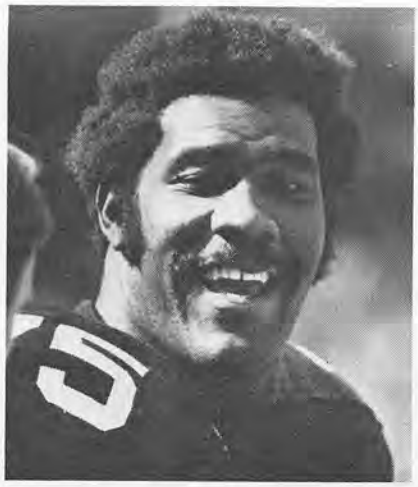
At least not the guy who stood watching with the rest of his teammates a few yards away. Joe Greene, the man who probably made it all possible more than any other Steeler, didn't almost like it. He loved it.

Greene and Rooney were total strangers for 36 years after a $2500 bankroll, lengendarily reported to have been won at a race track, gave birth to the Pittsburgh entry in the National Football League in 1933.

Greene had waited six years himself for that initial title. Six years during which he pushed the talents inside his 6-4, 275-pound frame to the pinnacle of greatness. And now as he watched Rooney accept the Lombardi trophy, what he felt greatly contrasted the image the country's sports pages had painted of him. "Mean Joe" he was definitely not.

"It was a great thrill," Greene said of what his soul was feeling as his boss cradled the trophy for the first time. "That was worth the ballgame and more to see a dream come true. To see a person really and truly happy, and with no misgivings. That was a good feeling, and I felt part of it."

Joe Greene was more a part of it than he probably ever realized. He had captured part of the elder



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Rooney's weary soul and given it a foundation to build yet another hope and dream on.

And that is what this story is all about. A 75-year-old, self-made wealthy white man with a dream, and a 28-year-old black man determined to help him fulfill it.

This is a love story.

Down through the years it has been written that Art Rooney has been a good loser. Realistic would be more like it. His first 30 football teams finished as high as second four times and tied for first once. Philadelphia won that 1947 playoff, 21-0. A victory over the Giants in the final game of 1963 would have meant the Steelers' first title, but New York romped, 33-17.

1. Art Rooney accepting two of the most coveted awards: the game ball and the Lombardi Trophy, held by Pete Rozelle. Steelers' coach, Chuck Noll, hands Rooney the ball. It was a long wait, but patience won out.

2. "Mean Joe" Greene played a rough game, but the 28-year-old player gave the 75-year-old owner new light for his aging dream, and made it real.

3. Art stoically weathered eight losing seasons since 1963, after his first 30 teams finished as high as second four times and tied for first once.

4. Dan Rooney, oldest of Art's five sons and Steelers' VP, runs the team under his dad, but brought winners in.

5. Art Rooney Jr., also a Steeler VP, lives under his father's "shadow," but his ability to scout and recruit real potent talent put Steelers on the map.

Eight straight losing seasons followed.

"The coaches and ballplayers would be high on our team, but they never got me high if I didn't think we had it," Rooney said, recalling the grim reality of it all. "If I thought we had holes on our ballclub I didn't get to the place where I thought we were going to win the championship. And, generally, that's the way I felt.

"Most of the time I didn't think we had it. The ballplayers didn't have the spark. They had it in their throats, but not in their hearts; they just waited to get beat. And we always did.

"I didn't want to lose, and I took losses as hard as anybody could take them. But I could take it. It got a lot harder when my sons came along and got interested in the team. Then it became something different to me," Rooney said with a touch of paternalism. "It worried me about them. I never allowed them to talk football until Tuesday when we lost on Sunday. And I never talked it over until Tuesday."

Dan and Art Jr. learned their lessons well. So well that papa handed control of the club over to Dan in the late 1960s, and Art Jr. was given the job of putting together what has become one of the most sophisticated and successful scouting departments in the NFL.

Joe Greene, meanwhile, or at precisely the time the Steelers were coming out on the short end of that 1963 game with the Giants that would have meant their first championship, was starting to realize that football was more than "just something to do after school . . . something to attract the girls," as he put it.

He was a 17-year-old junior at Dunbar High School in Temple, Texas, north of Dallas. Despite the fact that he had only been playing organized football three years, the greatness was already beginning to surface.

"Along about my junior year in high school I started to see where football might be my way to get a college scholarship," he remembered. The product of a broken home, raised by his mother Cleo, Greene set out after that goal, which was realized when North Texas State granted him the scholarship he so desired. But pro football wasn't yet even a dream.

"I hadn't been exposed to professional football," he explained. "I only saw it on TV. But after I played a year in college I met some pro football players and saw what the game could do for you. I started thinking that maybe there was something there for me. After my sophomore year I felt sure that I could, and would play pro football."

The Steelers already knew that, although by the time Greene completed his senior year, they had more pressing problems than the upcoming draft. Bill Austin, their 14th coach, had just been fired after three seasons netted 11 wins, 28 losses and three ties.

Historically, Pittsburgh was famous for some momentous blunders when it came time to make such critical decisions. Over the years the Steelers had drafted and traded Sid Luckman before he ever donned a uniform, cut Johnny Unitas when he was a rookie, and traded one of the finest wide receivers in the game at the time, Buddy Dial, to Dallas for negotiating rights to a huge University of Texas tackle by the name of Scott Appleton, who promptly signed with Houston of the rival American Football League. Thirty-nine years of said front office leadership was beginning to take its toll with the ticket buyers. The Steelers were wallowing in a financial bath.

Hope sprang eternal that January of 1969 however, when Pittsburgh offered Penn State's Joe Paterno a long-term contract, reported to be somewhere between $70,000 and $100,000 per year, to be its new coach.

Paterno was already a legend in his own time in Western Pennsylvania. Most Steeler fans would have bet the mortgage that most of his Penn State teams could have rolled over what the Steelers were trying to pass off as a professional football club. He was an overwhelmingly popular choice to succeed Austin.

Preferring collegiate security to a place alongside the deposed Steeler coach in the unemployment line, Paterno turned his back to what was left of the Steeler money. It turned out to be Art Rooney's biggest break.

Twenty-seven days into 1969, after a sleepless night, Dan Rooney tumbled out of bed at 7 o'clock and made a long distance phone call to Baltimore and offered the Pittsburgh coaching job to a sleepy Colt assistant.

Chuck Noll took all of one second to accept. Two days later he made Joe Greene his first draft pick ever, and the Steelers were on their way to the Super Bowl. Neither Rooney nor Greene realized it at the time.

"I don't follow college football players," Rooney explained. "But my boy, Artie, told me 'this is the greatest college lineman of all time.' And there was no doubt in his mind. But I'd heard that often. I heard that every year about some player."

All Greene knew about the team that drafted him was that it had only won two games the previous season. "But I figured you could have a bad team one year and then put it together the next. I knew they were bad, but it just never dawned on me that I would be playing for a bad team. I figured that whenever I started play-

ing it would be good. It just didn't happen that way."

The Steelers went 1-13 that first Joe Greene-Chuck Noll season. It was frustrating, but the Rooney-Greene relationship had already started to make it easier to bear. There was at least hope in Pittsburgh.

"When I first met Mr. Rooney he was just another owner to me," Greene admitted. "Somebody who was able to relax into whatever his environment was at the time. He was just kind of moving along with the wind. You knew he was a strong person, but he possessed a quiet kind of strength. There was just something there."

"He was easy to meet," Rooney related of his initial encounter with the 'greatest college lineman of all time.' "I could tell he was a gentleman with a lot of class. He had a friendliness that was sincere."

Talent? "After I saw him play a few pre-season games I said to myself, 'this guy can be as good as he wants to be.' "

Joe Greene became good enough immediately to earn NFL defensive Rookie-of-the-Year honors, but not before he went through the agony of losing 13 straight games. Still, he knew the Super Bowl seed had been planted.

"That first year was a shock," he recalled with a sigh. "But I said to myself that out of all the people who had been through Pittsburgh, that if we couldn't win with Chuck, then I didn't think we could win with anybody." Rooney concurred.

"You learned a lot about Chuck that 1-13 season," he said. "It was bad, but during all of that he never once lost his ballclub. I knew right then he was going to be a winner."

It didn't take Noll long to live up to expectations as the Steelers won the AFC Central Division title in his fourth season, the first of three straight Pittsburgh post-season appearances. Rooney's confidence soared.

One week after Franco Harris' "Immaculate Reception" against Oakland in 1972 propelled Pittsburgh into the AFC Championship game at their own Three Rivers Stadium against the undefeated Miami Dolphins, the bubble burst.

The Steelers' history rose up and dealt Rooney what he felt certain was a final, unmerciful blow. Trailing 7-0, Miami punter Larry Seiple ran 37 yards on fourth down for a first down on the Pittsburgh 12. Two plays later Earl Morrall hit Larry Csonka with a tying TD pass that took the starch out of the Steelers for the rest of the afternoon. Miami won 21-17 and went on to win the Super Bowl.

"I always felt we would win the championship some day," Rooney admitted, "until that Miami game. That's the first time I really ever got to the place where I felt I might not see it happen. In fact, after that game I said to some of the fellows I loaf with 'I'm gettin' old. I'm not gonna' be around here too much longer.' That's the first time I ever had that feeling."

Despite another playoff appearance in 1973, Rooney's skepticism remained. He fully expected his club to lose in Oakland, and it did. Badly, 33-14.

His 1974 confidence reached new heights however. "Right from the beginning of the year . . . from talking to the coaches and ballplayers . . . I felt we were gonna win it. And I never really had a player give me the confidence that we would win like Joe Greene did."

On December 29 the Steelers were in Oakland for their third consecutive playoff battle with the Raiders. This time the AFC Super Bowl berth was at stake. Not too many people, Rooney included, gave Pittsburgh much of a chance.

Oakland had scored an impressive 17-0 win over the Steelers in Pittsburgh in the third game of the regular season. Behind quarterback Ken Stabler, who had had an unbelievable year, Al Davis' bunch was a consensus pick to win, finally, the whole bundle. Rooney didn't disagree.

In fact, the previous week, while his Steelers were beating up on Buffalo in the playoff opener, he went against his lifetime style of never rooting, and, at least inwardly, rooted for Miami to upset the Raiders. The way he had it figured, the Dolphins were smarting from injuries and would be no match for his club, especially since the game

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would be played in Pittsburgh. Oakland won, 28-26.

So, it was a depressed Art Rooney who headed toward the Steeler bus in Oakland late last December. "I thought we could beat them, but I didn't know whether our ballclub felt it could beat them," he said of his thoughts as he headed for what he feared would be an unhappy conclusion to his 42nd year in the game.

"But on the way to get into the bus that day, I passed Greene in the hallway," he recalled. "He grabbed my arm and said, 'we'll win it . . . we're gonna' win it.' Well, coming from him, that gave me a tremendous lift. There was just something about the guy. He gave me the feeling that we WERE going to win. That he would do it somehow."

The Steelers won going away, 24-13, and Art Rooney went to the Super Bowl, in his words, "as a big shot." And he did plenty of things that were strange for him. Greene's assurance fresh in his mind, he told everybody—his old buddies from the press corps, his old NFL cronies George Halas, Wellington Mara and Max Winter—that he was going to win it all. It was no contest.

It would be folly even to hint that Joe Greene won the Super Bowl for Art Rooney all by himself. Greene would be the first to admit that. There were a host of other guys who played just as big a physical role. Terry Bradshaw matured as a quarterback, L.C. Greenwood took his place as one of the best defensive ends in the game, Rocky Bleier gave Pittsburgh another weapon besides Franco Harris in the backfield and a young offensive line just refused to be denied.

But the Rooney-Greene relationship played such a dynamic role that the Vikings never really had a chance. And considering the strained relationship between players and owners that has dominated the game since Ed Garvey surfaced, that relationship is a rare one indeed. But it's real.

"I can talk about all the people in my life," Rooney said, his voice beginning to crack, his deeply socketed eyes turning misty, "and especially my players . . . Bill Dudley, Bobby Layne, Big Daddy Lipscomb . . . I never had one I didn't like. Even the supposed tough guys I got along with.

"But Joe Greene to me is an entirely different person. He's given me a feeling that I can't describe. Something more than any player I've ever been associated with. My real feelings toward the guy? Well, it's hard for me to put into words. He sends me . . . he sends me differently than anybody else I ever knew.

"He's a tremendous human being," Rooney continued. "What a shame it is that most people only know him as a football player. That they don't know what kind of man he really is. What a different thing it would be if people only knew what this guy is all about."

Greene was not reluctant to toss some of his own bouquets. "For a person to maintain the level he's maintained for this length of time . . . and not really change . . . I can't imagine," he said of his boss. "When you think of that time . . . 42 years . . . that's four decades. I really don't know if I would have been able to take it if we hadn't won it all this year. After only six years in the league.

"He's a GREAT man," Greene stated emphatically. "A great man. A man who feels for his fellow man. A man who sacrifices things for himself for other people. He's a man I would like to be like.

"He's had to have some strong, strong convictions, or allegiance to something—a church affiliation maybe, or just somebody in his life who's helped him stand up against what he's gone through. There had to be some strong people in his life who played a great part in that."

Indeed there were. But Joe Greene was, and is, on top of the list.

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1. The "Pittsburgh Lyceum" of 1924 was not an NFL team, but among its players was young Art Rooney (extreme right, front row). Art's been with the game for a long, patient time.

2. Rooney recalled spirited Steeler players of the past such as QB Bobby Layne (22) passing to end Buddy Dial (84) during '62 Steeler-Cowboy game.

3. Greene scoops up a fumble and sets up for run during 1974 Steelers-Browns game.

4. Shedding a tackler, Greene runs away with an intercepted pass, grabbed from the Eagles last year. Greene's inspired playing paced the Steelers.

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"PATIENCE IS A GREAT VIRTUE"

Art Rooney's 42 years of patience comprised many changes in ownership structure. His team originally was known as the Pirates. Later, it became the Steelers. At one time Rooney sold the Steelers (1940), bought a half-interest in the Philadelphia Eagles, then, a few months later (1941), he engineered a switch in which the two cities changed franchises, putting Rooney back into Pittsburgh, but now as part-owner and vice president. He merged the two franchises, known as the Phil-Pitt Eagles, for the war year 1943, and merged with the Cardinals (Card-Pitt) for 1944. When his partner Bert Bell became the league's new commissioner (1946), Rooney again became the president and controlling owner of the Steelers. Since then, Rooney and later his sons have been the Steelers' franchise. He was the last owner to go along with the switch from single wing football to the T-formation, and the Steelers were the last of the pre-war NFL franchises to win their first title in the post-WWII league.

But not all changes in ownership status are as obvious to the public as were Rooney's switches of financial interest in the war years.

From the time he led his fellow investors into the NFL in 1932 in Boston, George Marshall was a prominent figure in the operation of his Redskins and also the NFL. He proposed many of the rules and policy changes in existence today. He pioneered the modern concept of pre-game and half-time showmanship. He never dodged the personal limelight and actually promoted the team and the league with every utterance. He was a most colorful figure.

Through the years in Boston and later (1937) Washington, the Redskins were identified as "George Marshall's team." But never was he the sole owner. One part of the sub-ownership story now has evolved into the NFL's most unusual executive situation.

Long before the late Dan Reeves bought control of the Cleveland Rams in 1941, Reeves' older brother Ed had owned 250 shares of the 1000-share Redskins. Later, that block of stock found its way into the hands of Harry Wismer, the late Redskins broadcaster and, after that, the owner of the New York Titans (AFL). When Wismer began popping up in the AFL news in 1960, Redskin followers realized that he no longer was a Washington owner. Those who probed learned that his 250 shares had gone to Jack Kent Cooke, a Canadian who had been involved in publications and broadcasting in both countries.

When Cooke was revealed in 1964 as the new owner of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team in the NBA, there were scattered raised eyebrows among those who knew that the NFL had a policy against NFL owners having possible conflicts of interest, such as ownership of another professional major sport in the United States. But since Edward Bennett Williams was listed as the president of the Redskins during the long illness and complete incapacity of George Marshall, who passed away in 1969, no major point was made of this seeming abrogation of what had been an NFL policy.

Later, Vince Lombardi was awarded Redskins stock as an incentive to take over the team as general manager and coach. Upon his death in 1970, the stock structure was:

Marshall Estate	430 shares
Lombardi Estate	220 shares
Jack Kent Cooke	250 shares
Bennett Williams and Milt King	100 shares
Total	1000

In a recent move, the Redskins floated a loan enabling them to re-purchase the stock from the Lombardi and Marshall estates. Now that stock is retired, leaving only 350 shares outstanding, instead of 1000. This means that Cooke's 250 shares no longer represent 25 percent. Now, they represent 71.43 percent, and the Williams-King 100 shares represent 28.57 percent. The team has a huge loan encumbrance, the annual interest on which was reported to be around $1 million.

For the team to afford this new annual financial responsibility, the organization will have to economize drastically, which doesn't seem likely under the extravagent reputation of a George Allen administration, or else it will have to increase its annual revenue by a considerable figure. Already, one giant step in that direction has been taken. The 'Skins will charge an $18 top for tickets this year. As long as the Washington fans are willing to go with the escalation at the box office, and if the Redskins' VIP fans, the members of Congress, are willing to back off on their potentially franchise-killing anti-blackout legislation, Mr. Cooke will have been able to increase his share of ownership from 25 percent to 71.43 percent at no cost to himself.

Does his new majority stock stature affect the above-mentioned league policy against dual ownership in pro sports? The league says it will not face that possibility until or unless a protest or an operational problem requires a probe into Redskin activities. Meanwhile, the NFL is content to assume that when Edward Bennett Williams exercises the Redskins' vote in league matters, as he does now, that it is a valid assignment of authority within the Redskin family.

The Redskins state merely that, in compliance with the league policy, all of Cooke's stock is held in voting trust which is exercised by Edward Bennett Williams.

As Jack Kent Cooke's original investment has mushroomed with the passage of time, so has time brought a new importance to the scoreboard clock in game strategy. But PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL feels that using the two-minute-drill type offense and anti-two-minute-drill type "prevent" defense only in the final 120 seconds of each half is very primitive. Pro football has much to learn in the art of conserving the clock at earlier stages of the game. And in Bob Markus and Virgil Carter, we found a writer and a player/researcher who agree.

PHOTO BY PETER READ MILLER

"JUST DON'T WAIT TOO LONG"

THE HURRY-UP OFFENSE

FOOTBALL'S TWO-MINUTE DRILL OFTEN ADDS "TOO LITTLE TOO LATE" TO THE CHALLENGE OF CONSERVING TIME

BY ROBERT MARKUS

The game is a symphony in slow motion. The quarterback breaks the huddle and the team forms up on the line of scrimmage. Slowly. He studies the defense, looks to the right, to the left, barks out the signals.

Suddenly the ball is in his hand. He pivots, slips it to the halfback, who cracks between guard and tackle. There is a tremendous popping of plastic helmets and shoulder pads. Grunts, swearing, tugging and pulling. The whistle blows. The players unpile. Slowly. They drift back to the huddle and it all begins again.

That is the way the game goes, a symphony in slow motion. And, then, it is almost over. The quarterback studies the scoreboard and the clock. His team is down by 10 points. There are two minutes to go. Suddenly it is as if, during a scene from an Ingmar Bergman movie, somebody slipped on a reel of the Keystone Kops. Everything is speeded up. Quickly, quickly. Break the huddle with a crack of the hands. Hurry. Sideline pass. Draw play. Time out! Time! Time! Touchdown!

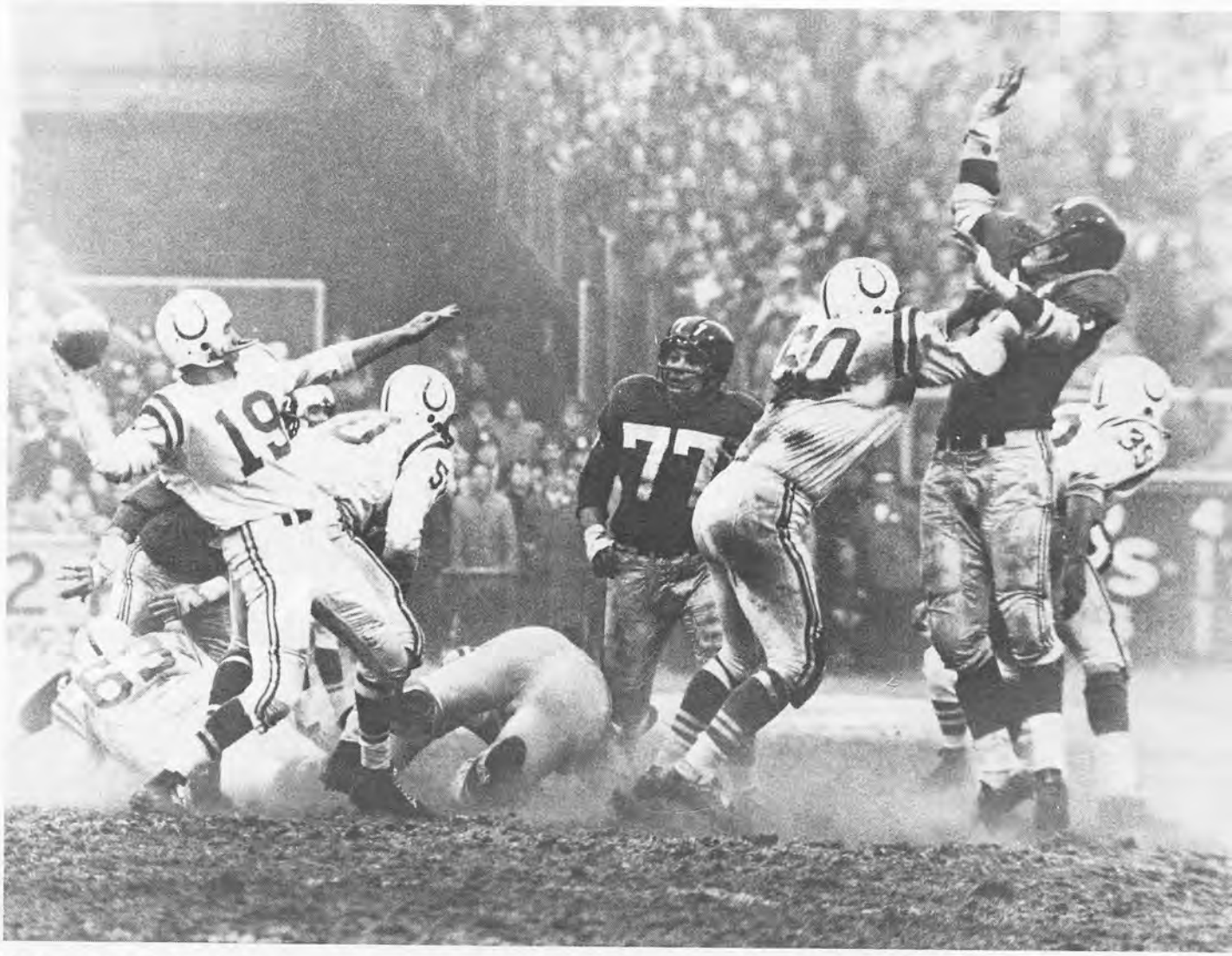
Get it back! Gotta get that ball back! Make 'em punt. Time out! Time! Time! Awwwww, if only we'd had more time.

You've seen it happen a hundred times. Two teams battle through 58 minutes of a football game with one team clearly in command. Then comes the two-minute warning and everything changes. The quarterback who had been sacked eight times suddenly finds the pressure is off. He is allowed to sit back in the pocket as safe as if he were sitting in a rocker on the front porch.

Now the offense explodes. For 58 minutes the defense has been as unyielding as granite but now it's zip, zip, zip and the offense scores on the board in six plays.

What is responsible for this dramatic turnaround? A remarkable phenomenon known as the two-minute offense coupled, more often than not, with a frequently destructive defensive stratagem known as the "prevent."

And why, you might ask, does this come about? Why does the offense fuss and fidget and act like a ram butting its head into a tree for 58 minutes when such an effective attack is at its disposal? Why does the defense fight



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for every inch of ground as if it were defending its homeland and then, in effect, lay down its arms and let the invaders walk right in?

Indeed you might ask, and the editors of Petersen's PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL have asked. Shouldn't a team that is trailing begin to conserve time long before the two-minute mark? Yes, it should. Shouldn't a team that has been shutting off the opponents' offense stick with what it has been doing in the final two minutes? Yes, it should.

These are one man's opinions. When you read his name you will not immediately leap off your chair and shout: "Of course; if he says it's so I will believe him."

He is not one of the sage pioneers of the game. Not George Halas. He is not one of the dynamic coaches. Not Paul Brown, not Don Shula. He is a quarterback but he is not a household name among quarterbacks. Not Otto Graham. Not John Unitas. Not Bobby Layne nor Bob Griese.

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His name is Virgil Carter and he has unique qualifications for pontificating on pro football strategy. But first a few words about his football background.

Carter was drafted out of Brigham Young University by the Chicago Bears after leading the nation in total offense in his senior year. But he was small and a scrambler in an era when it was considered bad form to leave the pocket without either throwing the football or getting your head knocked off by the defense.

The Bears didn't expect much from him and Carter didn't expect much from himself. He figured to stay around a few years and then go into business.

His rookie year he spent the first five games in the pressbox, relaying information to the field. The Bears lost four of those games and in their only victory their starting quarterback was hurt. In two subsequent losses it became painfully obvious that the backup man wasn't the answer, so Carter was summoned from the pressbox and told he was as of then the Bears' quarterback.

He didn't even know all the plays yet so he wrote them in ink on the front of his uniform pants. The Bears won the first four games Carter played, but in the fifth he broke a leg and retired a hero.

The next season, the bitterest in Bear history, Carter was not given a start until the campaign was nearly over. When he did get his chance he was benched at halftime of a scoreless game and afterward erupted in a bitter tirade. Astonished observers did not know that the angel-faced Carter knew some of the words that were spewing from his angry mouth.

He was fined by the Bears and traded to Buffalo and eventually wound up in the middle of the next season at Cincinnati, playing for Paul Brown. It was to prove the salvation of his football career.

The Bengals had lost five out of six when Carter got his first start. They lost that one, too, then went on to win their next seven and the division title. During the course of that streak Carter in one game nearly bit his tongue in two when sacked trying to pass, and played the next game in weakened condition, having been unable to eat all week!

In another game he was knocked cold. But he came back and earned the reputation for being gutty and brittle. He was never considered a great quarterback although he once led the AFC in completion percentage, but he was thought of as a brainy field general. The irony was that he played most of his NFL career for Brown, who called all the plays.

Last season Carter became the first NFL veteran to jump to the World Football League and lent the WFL what little credibility it had until, almost predictably, he was injured and sat out the last half of the season.

Now that you know who Carter is, it's time to tell you why he is uniquely qualified to discuss football theory. During the years that Carter was in Chicago he continued his education at Northwestern University and now holds a master's degree in quantitative analysis. He is an expert at analyzing statistical matter, reading computer printouts, and applying the results.

Working with the A. O. Smith Corporation's data system division, he once analyzed the results of almost an entire NFL season—179 games. So the little kid who went into his first pro game with his plays scribbled on his pants legs, has come to be known as the computerized quarterback.

Some of the findings from the study of that 1971 season are eye-opening. Carter finds particularly intriguing the fourth-and-one situation with the attacking team across midfield. "Traditionally," he observes, "that is considered a risky situation. But it really is not because in looking at more than 100 situations where the team went for it in 1971, about 85 percent were converted into first downs."

So if Virgil Carter were the coach and his team had fourth-and-one anywhere inside the 50, he'd go for it. Every time. No field goal attempt for Carter.

"If you trace the comparative mathematics of the expected values between the value of that field goal attempt, which is the probability of its being made times the value (three points), that was always less, regardless of field position, than the probability of making the first down, times the intrinisic value of making the first down.

"If you make it you are three downs closer to scoring a touchdown or at least closer for a field goal attempt with a higher likeliness of converting it."

Another Carter finding: In tracing the expected values—the number of points the offense is likely to score upon taking the ball at a fixed position on the field—he determined that,

1. It was a dusty pre-Astro Turf field when Johnny Unitas completed four out of seven passes against N.Y. in the 1958 NFL title game. His shattering 86-yard drive was accomplished during the game's final two minutes.

2. Virgil Carter and his wife Judy have made a project of computer studies of pro football strategy.

3. Virgil looks for his WR. This QB has some unique ideas about the offense-oriented game.

THE HURRY-UP OFFENSE

"Inside your own 20-yard-line the team on offense will realize fewer points than the team on defense. So you have a negative expected value. Therefore, if you are given the decision of taking the ball inside your own 20 or giving it to the opponent inside his 20, you'd give him the ball and play defense. But I don't think people in football would accept that line of reasoning."

He's dead certain they won't accept his next proposition. In fact they may question his sanity for even suggesting it. But Carter swears that the computer dictates the following revolutionary strategy.

"If you have first down on the opponent's 15-yard line," he says, "your chances of scoring from there are greater than if you have first down on the 10. So if Bob Griese, for instance, throws a pass to Paul Warfield and Warfield sees he's going to be tackled at the 10, the thing he should do is turn around and run back to the 15 and step out of bounds.

"Of course I'd never convince him or the coach of that, but mathematically, it's true."

As a quarterback as well as a computer analyst, Carter of course has his own gut reactions to certain situations. And his reaction to the question whether the trailing team often waits too long to open up is a resounding "Yes."

"Teams that fall behind and then come back to make it close at the end generally talk about, 'Oh, if we just had a little more time.' But I don't think they go back and consider just when they opened up. They could have had more time early in the game.

"I would say that anytime you're behind two touchdowns and a field goal would be enough for me to say, 'Let's go.' Even if it's the first half.

"The prevailing theory is that if you panic you tend to force the passing game and consequently you get even further behind. Last year when Paul Brown played Pittsburgh, he was criticized by his players for sitting on a large deficit because he didn't want it to expand and I think that's probably what a lot of people think happens. If you're losing by 15 and open up you may lose by 30 so they try to save face and make it a 15 or possibly an 8-point game.

"I feel differently. I think if you get that far behind you've got to open up. Of course, when you get down to that final two minutes and you are fighting time as well as the opponent, there is no option.

"You become more aggressive," says Carter. "Instead of running on first down or making it a run or play-action pass down, it becomes an automatic passing down.

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"If you are successful, you move 10 yards and do it again."

The two-minute drill has been an integral part of the offense since the passing game opened up in the late 1930s. George Halas of the Chicago Bears, who has been around pro football since its formalized inception, thinks the Bears may have been the first team to use it.

"That happened in 1939 with Sid Luckman," he recalled. "We knew he was smart enough to use it. We had only two passing plays, called play No. 1 and play No. 2. Play No. 1 was a 12-yard pass to the spread end, the idea being to catch it and then step out of bounds. Play No. 2 could be either a screen pass or, if the guy playing the spread end was on him too tight, he could fake and go on upfield.

"I'm not claiming we were first, but I don't remember anyone using it before us. Of those quarterbacks I've seen use the two-minute drill, Sammy

1. Otto Graham (wearing tennies) of Cleveland is about to be decked by Rams' Woodley Lewis in the NFL title game of 1950. Graham's 99 yards included 17 yards in last two minutes.

2. Bart Starr was an excellent "hurry-up" offense player. Here, he scores against Dallas with seconds left on clock during '67 NFL title game.

3. George Halas says Bobby Layne (22) was the best "hurry-up" offense QB his Bears ever faced.

Baugh was a great one but the master of them all was Bobby Layne. He could get more out of the last two minutes in a game than any other man I ever saw."

Who, indeed, can forget the 1953 championship game when Layne drove the Lions the length of the field in the closing minutes and hit Jim Doran for the touchdown in a 17-16 spine-tingler?

Carter feels it might be the system rather than the quarterback that makes the two-minute drill go. "Johnny Unitas and Bart Starr were great at it," he reasons, "but I think their teams and their systems had something to do with it. I don't think any Paul Brown team can be an outstanding two-minute team because the quarterback doesn't call the plays."

Carter, of course, is too young to have seen Otto Graham and particularly the closing minutes of the 1950 championship game when he positioned the Cleveland Browns for Lou Groza's winning field goal.

No matter who is the quarterback, however, Carter agrees that the defense aids and abets the enemy in the final two minutes.

"You look at films," he says, "and you'll see two teams in a tug of war up and down the field and someone will say, 'Two minutes' and suddenly one team just moves down the field and the reason, I think, has a lot to do with the defensive strategy.

"They are so conscious of the long play that they give up the intermediate play and you put three or four intermediate plays together and you're down the field.

"The 'prevent' defense really doesn't prevent anything. In fact it makes it more likely that you can move down the field. The things the defense gives you in the last two minutes are the things a quarterback licks his chops about.

"The three-man rush. I'm delighted when the defense goes into a three-man rush. Especially if you can move at all, the three-man rush is so easy to avoid and you can get not just an extra second but an extra five seconds. With that much time the defensive people, even though there are more of them, simply can't defend properly."

In his previous computer studies Carter had not touched on the two-minute aspect of football and, intrigued by the problem, volunteered to feed the relevant data to the A.O. Smith computer and give the results to PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL.

"I don't think there was anything tremendous uncovered, anything that went against popular belief," he said after studying the printouts. But there were, as Sherlock Holmes might have said, a few points of interest, and our detective Carter was confirmed in his own opinion.

"I divided the game into four time periods," Carter explained. "They were the first 28 minutes, two minutes to go in the half, the next 28 minutes, and the last two minutes of the game."

Carter studied 19,297 passing and running plays and, among other things, discovered that: In the first 28 minutes of the game the runs outnumbered passes in an approximate 60-40 ratio. But in the two minutes before the half, these figures were more than reversed, passes over runs by a 62-38 ratio.

In the first 28 minutes of the second half it was runs over passes, 56 to 44. In the last two minutes of the game, passes over runs, 55-45.

Exactly twice as many plays were run off per minute in the last two minutes of the first half as in the first 28 minutes and about 60 percent more in the last two minutes of the game, compared with the first 28 minutes of the second half. The exact figures in plays per minute for the four categories, were 2.3, 4.6, 2.3, and 3.9.

There were appreciably more touchdowns scored in the last two minutes of each half than in the first 28 minutes of each half. The exact figures by category for the four time periods: touchdown runs—2.4, 4.6, 2.7, 4.2; touchdown passes—3.7, 4.2, 4.7, 5.4.

There were lots of other figures including fumble risks, interceptions and field goal probabilities. But the basic conclusions are obvious. Teams do get off nearly twice as many plays in the two-minute period as they do in the rest of the game. And they score nearly twice as many touchdowns.

Conversely, there are more fumbles, interceptions and incomplete passes in the two-minute period. "You have to weigh the risk versus the success," says Carter, "the completion versus the interception, the touchdown run versus the fumble."

To him the answer is obvious. The team that is behind has got to take the risk. "The most significant thing I see here is the number of plays per minute. I wonder how many plays you could get off if you used the same type of theory in the first 28 minutes of the game?"

We'll probably never find out. Football coaches are basically conservative people. They are not going to tell Paul Warfield to run backwards five yards and go out of bounds at the 15. And they are not going to tell their quarterbacks to start conserving time when there is still plenty of it to go.

So the game for now will continue to be a symphony in slow motion, becoming only briefly and at well-defined intervals the lively and raucus rockfest it should be.

Someday, perhaps, after Virgil Carter or someone like him has refined his studies, change will come. It's all a matter of time.

VIRGIL CARTER'S RUN-PASS RATIO AND TWO-MINUTE OFFENSE ANALYSIS (Based on a study of 19,297 plays)

	FIRST HALF		SECOND HALF	
	First 28 minutes	Last two minutes	First 28 minutes	Last two minutes
RUNS	60%	38%	56%	45%
PASSES	40%	62%	44%	55%
AVERAGE NO. OF PLAYS PER MINUTE	2.3	4.6	2.3	3.9
AVERAGE NO. OF TD RUNS	2.4	4.6	2.7	4.2
AVERAGE NO. OF TD PASSES	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.4

"THE COMPUTER IS IRREFUTABLE"

Virgil Carter's computer analysis may catalyze new looks in football as the game progresses, once the traditional habits of strategy are replaced by the more realistic percentages suggested by the computer.

The closest human counterpart to the computer would be Raymond Berry, the Hall of Fame pass receiver with the Baltimore Colts and now a coach with the Detroit Lions. As pointed out three years ago on these pages (Petersen's 12th PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL, page 26), Berry very likely would win hands down if the Guinness Book of Records showed "Most Hours Spent in Self-Training and Self-Analysis Off the Field by a Pro Football Player."

Coming into the game out of Texas in the '50s, Berry was notoriously ill-gifted, physically, for the pro game. He lacked the blinding speed needed by outside receivers. One leg was shorter than the other and his eyesight was very poor, in the day when contact lenses were in their pioneering, irritating, non-custom-fitting stage of development. But Berry began a tireless dedication to studying his position, to developing habits of concentration, and to the engineering of new techniques and methods of practice and play. This all-out effort brought him the all-time championship in pass receiving in the NFL (and his record of 631 passes now has been exceeded only by the 633 of Don Maynard, who spent most of his career facing AFL defenses).

Raymond Berry is more than a student; he is a man who shares. Receiver Pat Richter found this out.

Early in his days with the Washington Redskins, Richter realized that he, too, had poor eyesight and less than top speed, and that in a great sense he was not unlike the man who had converted himself into the league's best receiver. Pat became hungry for ways to fight the battle as Berry had done, and decided to go to the source of his inspiration, to Berry, himself. But he didn't want to approach Berry directly. Using an assumed name, Richter pretended to be a budding young undergraduate receiver in need of coaching tips on playing his position, and petitioned by letter for Berry's help.

Berry sent Richter a large documentary report on the art of pass receiving: hints, techniques, practice habits, analysis of the philosophy of the position—everything a young college end needed, and more. Pat took it all to heart, studied it, and feels now that it helped him to establish his eight-year career with the Washington Redskins. Meanwhile, Pat kept the Berry document.

Later, after his retirement, Richter became a personnel executive with Oscar Mayer (he's now located at the company's largest plant, in Madison, Wisconsin), where he became friendly with another company personnel executive whose son, Mike Murphy, was attending Drake University. A couple of years ago, Mike's dad asked Pat Richter if he had any tips on helping the 6-3, 185-pound kid to play better as a pass receiver at Drake. Richter, now caught up in the residual of Berry's lifetime spirit of sharing, sent Murphy his well worn, but still intact "Berry document" on the art of pass receiving.

Murphy became an outstanding receiver at Drake, and subsequently was drafted by the Detroit Lions (DC #7, January, 1975). Again, Murphy sought Richter's advice on signing a pro contract, and Richter obliged. Some weeks later, Richter was surprised to learn that Murphy had caught the eye of Lions' assistant coach Raymond Berry, who was dispatched to Drake to sign Murphy, and did so. (Richter did not know that Berry was now with the Lions and Berry did not know that Murphy had been a Raymond Berry student while at Drake.)

Undoubtedly, by now, Berry has learned the long-hidden secret that his own documented techniques had influenced both Richter (in the NFL) and Murphy (at Drake). It will be interesting to see if Murphy (who at 4.6 in the 40 is a shade faster than Richter and Berry) will continue to make the most of Berry's guidance, now that he actually has met Berry and will work under him.

Meanwhile, in the AFC, the most likely candidate for Maynard's all-time AFL-AFC crown is a prime receiver at Oakland. If, for the next four years he adds but one more catch to his current 10-year average of 45, he'll make it. He has the ability. It's a question of time.

"MAN CAN PROGRAM HIMSELF"

FRED BILETNIKOFF

THE PERFECT PASS-TIMER

BY ART SPANDER

. . . The right time is any time that one is still so lucky to have.
—Henry James

The right time is all the time for Fred Biletnikoff, and usually all the time is the right time—whether he's swerving back to catch a pass, throwing a golf club in anger or slouched in a chair watching television, his yellow Adidas shoes propped up on a table.

"So far," he said, reflecting on the pattern of a life which for some people may be as difficult to comprehend as some he runs on the football field, "I've been on a 10-year vacation. I'm not worrying about the future."

A vacation if you call taking forearms to the face or knees to the back a vacation. Then again, Fred does, so maybe that's all that matters. After a decade of diving catches and frustrating finishes, Fred still thinks football is a game, not a business. To be sure, he isn't going to play it for free, and a couple years ago he refused to appear at training camp until his contract was increased. But basically, whether he's grabbing a touchdown pass against the Dolphins or grabbing some extra sleep on a February morning, Biletnikoff lives his own style.

"I don't like to take any nonsense from anyone, and I don't like to kiss anybody's butt," Biletnikoff said, underlining his philosophy. "I like to do things my way."

Fred Biletnikoff's way on the field is to perform with function and form, to utilize his strengths—and exploit the defender's weaknesses—to the ultimate. Since, in 10 years with the Oakland Raiders, Fred has caught 450 passes for 7105 yards, 14th best in the history of the National Football League, he must be described at the least as an efficient performer.

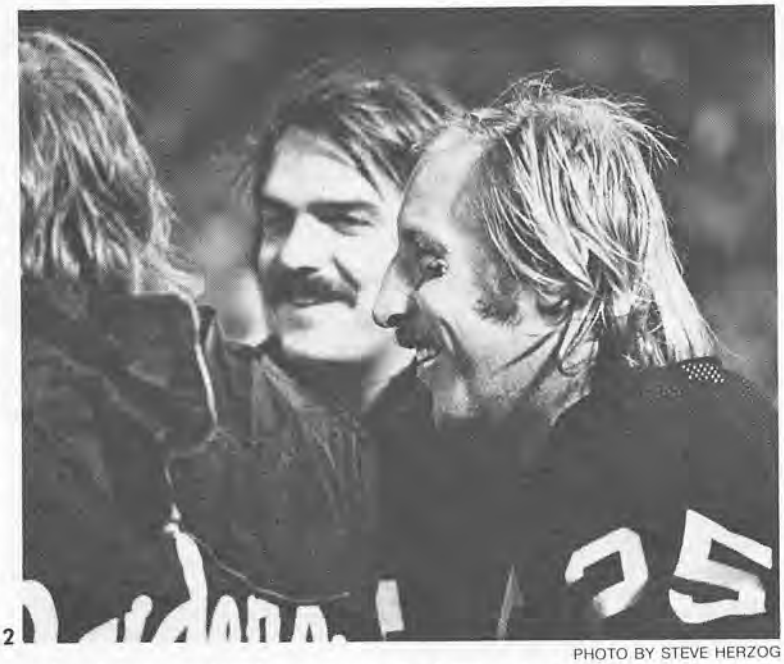

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

1. Fred Biletnikoff has looked at his 10 years on the field as a vacation. His vacation has netted him 450 receptions for 7105 yards. Future problems do not bother Fred at all.

2. Fred shares a sideline joke with Raiders' Tony Cline and Ken Stabler (back to camera). Despite frustrations, he usually leads the Oakland offense.

The Raiders, to be sure, are a passing team, albeit a passing team built upon the run. The long pass, the short pass. It matters little to the Raiders, who consider the idea of three yards and a hunk of Astro Turf as old fashioned as the leather helmet. "We play football with the end zone in mind," said Oakland coach John Madden.

Quite frequently the man in the end zone has been Fred Biletnikoff. His 60 touchdown receptions make Biletnikoff one of only 18 players to reach that number.

He has broken Raider records and opponents' hearts with catches everyone assumes he shouldn't make—and everyone knows he will make. There was the one against Miami in the semi-final playoff game last year, a ball that had been batted up in the air and presumably out of danger. But if it's in the stadium, there's an excellent chance it will end up in Biletnikoff's hands. This one did.

It isn't quite fair to compare Fred with a plowhorse. He's much more agile. But he's considerably more reliable than many of the thoroughbreds who sprint through a football season, impressing everyone with the ability to run a 9-something hundred-yard dash and then dropping the wide open pass at a key moment.

The Raiders have had players with feet as quick as their hands, Art Powell and Warren Wells in years past and, now that's he learned to hold on to the ball, Cliff Branch. And then, when they need the big play, they've got Fred Biletnikoff. Or, during the period when they didn't have Wells or Branch, they had only Biletnikoff, which is the reason in 1971 Fred led the NFL in receptions with 61.

Last year, Oakland had Biletnikoff and Branch—Cliff, the onetime track star at Colorado, catching 60 to rank second in the American Conference, and Fred 42, the two combining for 20 touchdowns.

But the numbers game is one of the few Fred Bilketnikoff (a competitive sort since his teenage days on the streets of Erie, Pa.) doesn't like to enter. "I just go out and do the job," said Biletnikoff, "do it the best I can, and make sure we win, and that no one embarrasses me."

Few people have embarrassed Fred. The reverse has not been true. With that hook pattern as familiar as his stringy flaxen hair and gaunt eyes, Biletnikoff has made a spate of defenders look bad—and various Raider quarterbacks, from Tom Flores to Ken Stabler, look good.

"I know what I can do and what I can't do," said Fred. "My greatest attribute is being consistent. I'm satisfied with what I have; know my limitations. It's stupid to blow smoke and say you can do things you can't. Know what you can do, work on that and you'll help your team.

"I may not have the speed of some other wide receivers, but I may be more of a threat because I catch the ball almost every time. Say you're a 9.5 sprinter, and you're thrown five passes and only catch one. That one may be a game-breaker, but I might catch four and hurt you more."

In his first years as a pro, after an excellent career at Florida State, it seemed the only man Fred might hurt was himself. "My first couple of years with the Raiders," he said candidly, "were horrible. In college I always faced a zone, but when I came into the pros, in the mid-1960s, almost everyone used man-to-man defense. It got to be a mental problem. I worried more about running patterns, not catching the ball."

Now the worry about Fred's patterns falls to the defensive backs. When the Raiders need four yards for a first down, there's Fred, looping back to catch the ball . . . and the opposition off guard. And another Oakland drive continues.

"The comeback pass is something I've always done," Biletnikoff explained. "You have to know where you are on the field and what you're trying to do. If you need four or five yards for a first down, my philosophy always has been to try to get that yardage. You run a pattern, say 14 yards deep, and then cut back nine yards. You've got all that room to work, it makes it easier for the quarterback and you still get the necessary yardage."

Utilitarian, perhaps, but as they say in the commercials, who needs frills? After a divorce and an unsuccessful business venture, a restaurant called The Flanker which apparently got caught in the financial bump-and-run, not Fred Biletnikoff. On the field and off, he perfers to keep things simple, avoiding affectation and complications, even if they appear to be for his own benefit.

"I had a public relations job for a while," said Biletnikoff, "but not any more. When I'm finished playing football, I guess I'd like to go into coaching. I'm not thinking about the future. I don't want to go out and try to please people now, trying to set my-

self up for when I retire. I'd just as soon sit home and watch TV."

A place some defensive backs around the league wish he would remain Sundays during the fall. And, occasionally, a spot some people in Raider management hoped he'd be after a game—rather than the locker room. Asked a question, Fred, in his no-nonsense manner, will more than likely give an answer, from the heart instead of the head. It may make a few executives uncomfortable when Biletnikoff points out exactly what went wrong, but it also makes a lot of newspaper people appreciative. In a world of euphemisms, it is refreshing to hear someone say what he thinks.

One case in point came after the Raiders, as usual, had lost a championship game, this to the Kansas City Chiefs for the 1969 AFL title.

By now, certainly, Oakland players and fans are, if not inured, then at least reconciled to losing the big one. No team in professional football has been more successful during the regular season—nor more unsuccessful in playoff games—than the Raiders the past several years. People still grouse and wonder, as they did last December when Oakland, "Tomorrow's Champions," lost the conference playoff to Pittsburgh, but the words are less vehement.

That was not the situation after Oakland, which, similar to last season, had the best record in the AFC in 1969, lost the game to the Chiefs—a team the Raiders had beaten twice previously during the regular season.

Disgusted at losing, especially since Oakland had an early lead, Biletnikoff excoriated the game plan and many of the individuals who were supposed to implement it. Biletnikoff was as overlooked during the second half as the equipment manager, who, if memory serves, may have been more active than Fred. Until it came to the postgame interviews.

"I'm outspoken," said Bilketnikoff. "But normally I don't do much complaining about not being thrown to. I know I can get open. If I'm not getting the ball it's not my fault. If it is my fault I admit it. Against the Chiefs I was upset because I wanted to win."

Like that other team which occupies the Oakland Coliseum, the baseball Athletics, verbal criticism, internally or externally, is not much of a factor with the Raiders—except for making headlines. Love and hate are generally one and the same in the great scheme of things, if the blocks and tackles are executed properly.

"I guess we're sort of like the Dirty Dozen of pro football," suggested Bilketnikoff, not entirely in jest. "We get together to play ball. When I say something, I have to be aware how it's going to affect the group. But unless you really knock one person, most of the criticism is usually ignored. You rarely offend anyone. We've got so many different personalities, but when it comes to playing the game I guess everyone is on the same wavelength."

Particularly Biletnikoff and his quarterbacks, the past two years the left-handed Stabler, before that right-handed Daryle Lamonica. And, if you want to return to the apparent dawn of time, when there really were two pro football leagues, Flores and Cotton Davidson.

"I don't think a receiver changes for a quarterback," asserted Bilketnikoff. "I think a quarterback changes for a receiver. Once you're a receiver, there isn't much you can do to change."

But there is a great deal you can do about catching the ball, short or long, in traffic or open, high or low. And Fred has done it all. And he has caught them all.

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PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

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PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

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PHOTOS BY PETER READ MILLER

"The biggest part in catching a ball," said Biletnikoff, reviewing a receiver's First Commandment, "is concentration. I see a lot of other receivers drop passes they should catch. I guess they let a lot of things bother them.

"It probably amounts to how much determination you have. I don't care if I get hit or I slip, I only worry about catching the ball. I spend a lot of time in practice catching the ball, so I'm ready in a game.

"Last year I made a lot of tough catches. I was really pleased with the way I caught the ball under pressure. Those were the catches I practiced on. I keep working on the hard ones so I'll be able to make them."

One of the hardest, or at least the most notable, came in the playoff against Miami. The Dolphins' Tim Foley knocked the ball away from Biletnikoff and then knocked Biletnikoff away from the ball. He thought. There was Fred planted millimeters inside the out-of-bounds line, his right arm being held by Foley, his left arm holding the ball. Touchdown!

"The ball was not thrown long," recalled Biletnikoff. "As I went down to the corner I had to make the decision where I should play the ball. I figured if I jumped up, he'd knock me down as I reached. So I took a gamble. I let him jump figuring he might tip it up and then I could grab it."

Having come up with four aces on that gamble, Biletnikoff was a sure thing the rest of the way. On the winning touchdown drive, the one that was to end with Clarence Davis grabbing a desperation pass with 26 seconds left, Biletnikoff caught pass after pass for first downs.

It was fitting. And ironic. After hardly acknowledging his presence during the early part of the season, the Raiders knew exactly where he was in the final games. The trend was not without precedent.

"Last year we wanted to get Cliff (Branch) some confidence," said Biletnikoff, "to get him going. He knew he was going to start and he came to camp with a different attitude."

So, while Branch was grabbing passes and encomiums, Biletnikoff was acting as pro football's most effective—and illogical—decoy. That was not quite what Biletnikoff had in mind during training camp, but he accepted the role the way he did double-coverage. Realistically.

"It is kind of disappointing each year to go to camp and spend so much time working and then not be thrown to early in the year, but there isn't much I can do. Every year I just go in with the same attitude, that this year is going to be different. Only it never really happens. I was in such good shape by the end of the season that I could have played five or six more games."

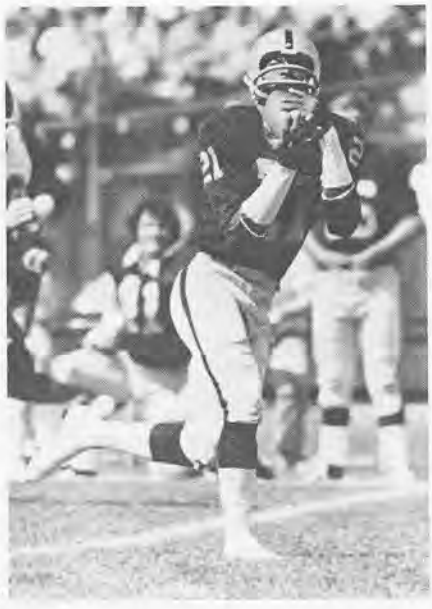
He would have been content to play one more. The Super Bowl. For the fifth time in seven seasons, the Raiders were halted one game away. As Oakland fullback Marv Hubbard said after Pittsburgh won the conference championship game: "Pick up all those quotes from last year."

Biletnikoff picked up his frustration and, from a distance of a few months, talked about the way it was.

"When we go into a championship game and lose," he said, "about the only thing you can do is look at the game and see how well you played. If I feel I've done as well as I could, then I can't be too disappointed. There are always so many questions, so many individuals involved. You can't go around blaming people.

"It's been disappointing getting close year after year. But you can't start making excuses, can't start throwing out your game plan in the middle of the game. I don't think there's a jinx or it's psychological. Pittsburgh just outplayed us. It's sort of disgraceful, but it shouldn't be. They're athletes too, and if they outplay you, there's not much you can do."

Except try again, and figure that some time you'll win. And that time, even for Fred Biletnikoff, may be better than the other times he's been lucky enough to have.



1. During Raiders-Chiefs game in '74, Stabler (12) concentrates on timing his pass to coincide with Biletnikoff's arrival, despite charging #51.

2. Stabler's No. 1 target usually makes the timing pay off in yards, as with this reception against the Broncos who were caught by surprise.

3. This sequence shows Biletnikoff's TD reception against Miami in '74. The Dolphins' Foley smacks ball from Fred in the end zone . . .

4. And then tries to both shunt Fred away from the ball and hold his right arm at the same time. Fred hung inside the zone by millimeters . . .

5. And recaptured the ball for another tightly won TD! Foley grimaces in displeasure as he turns away from Fred who's busy checking his arm.

6. Biletnikoff's opposite was Cliff Branch. Cliff needed to build his self-confidence, and Fred realistically gave him the chance, running decoy.

7. Trainer George Anderson methodically mummified Biletnikoff's ankles prior to a game. Fred, off the field, seems bemused by the attention he's getting.

PHOTO BY RUSS REED

FRED BILETNIKOFF'S NFL PASS RECEIVING STATISTICS

Year	Team	Lg.	G	PC	Yards	Avg.	TD
1965	Oakland	AFL	14	24	331	13.8	0
1966	Oakland	AFL	10	17	272	16.0	3
1967	Oakland	AFL	14	40	876	21.9	5
1968	Oakland	AFL	14	61	1037	17.0	6
1969	Oakland	AFL	14	54	837	15.5	12
1970	Oakland	NFL	14	45	768	17.1	7
1971	Oakland	NFL	14	*61	929	15.2	9
1972	Oakland	NFL	14	58	802	13.8	7
1973	Oakland	NFL	14	48	660	13.8	4
1974	Oakland	NFL	14	42	593	14.1	7
AFL TOTALS—5 YEARS			66	196	3353	17.1	26
NFL TOTALS—5 YEARS			70	254	3752	14.8	34
PRO TOTALS—10 YEARS			136	@450	7105	15.8	60

*Led NFL
@Current leading active AFC receiver

"SUCCESS SEEMS TO BE CYCLIC"

Fred Biletnikoff's determination that the Raiders just keep trying harder until they make the Super Bowl—and win it—is commendable. But Fred may not realize that Oakland, like Dallas in the rival NFC, is a team that defies the equalizing laws of the NFL draft, and that one of these days a law of established averages may catch up with the Raiders and end their year-in, year-out ability to wind up in the playoffs.

Success in the National Football League usually goes in cycles, and there have been studies made which seem to bear out the fact that it is the common draft which brings this about. Drafting wisely *when the opportunity is at its greatest* appears to be a key to success. For years, the Pittsburgh Steelers were prone to trade away their top draft choices, then to find themselves even weaker in talent when the traded-for players retired. (It's a collision course on which George Allen now seems to be operating with the Redskins.)

But in 1969, when Art Rooney Jr. and new coach Chuck Noll began to control Pittsburgh's draft destiny, the turn-around began. The Steelers started picking up such people as Joe Greene, L.C. Greenwood, Terry Bradshaw and other home-grown draft-produced products, to the point where the Steelers, at one time in 1974, were showing 21 trade-free players out of 22 starters. With this new "home-grown" look has come success.

The tendency of Oakland and Dallas to defy the "rich get poorer and poor get richer" trends must be a credit to outstanding scouting and superior judgment in the few trades they have made. Most other teams have fallen prey to the prevailing cycle trends.

The NFL has offered an interesting chart in support of its contention that the player draft, if not a leveler, is at least a leveler of opportunity.

Going back over the eight years since the NFL and AFL merged their drafting, the chart shows that the teams selecting in the top half of the draft positions always have improved their collective position in next year's standings. In seven of the same eight years, the teams which selected in the last half of the draft positions finished with fewer wins the following season. This does, indeed, indicate that in the NFL, the teams on top have a hard time staying there beyond short cycles, and that teams on the bottom do tend to improve as the cycles go by. And it's hard to find flaw with the NFL's contention that the draft is the leveler of opportunity for the lower teams to improve.

The sciences involved in trading and drafting well are not as clear-cut as are many other sciences. Forecasting weather is a science which can be rated as quickly as it is put into use. The prediction is for rain, tomorrow. Tomorrow, the forecast is rated. Right or wrong. Rain or no rain. Not so in drafting and trading. Sometimes it takes years for a team's work in these areas to be evaluated.

NFL DRAFT—THE EQUALIZER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1974	(1-13)	1973-51 1974-75	+ 24	(14-26)	1973-124 1974-106	-18
1973	(1-13)	1972-54 1973-78	+ 24	(14-26)	1972-123 1973-97	-26
1972	(1-13)	1971-59 1972-71	+ 12	(14-26)	1971-115 1972-106	-9
1971	(1-13)	1970-54 1971-69	+ 15	(14-26)	1970-119 1971-105	-14
1970	(1-13)	1969-51 1970-75	+ 24	(14-26)	1969-123 1970-98	-25
1969	(1-13)	1968-50 1969-61	+ 11	(14-26)	1968-127 1969-113	-14
1968	(1-13)	1967-48 1968-59	+ 11	(14-26)	1967-116 1968-118	+ 2
1967	(1-12)	1966-44 1967-61	+ 17	(13-25)	1966-115 1967-103	-12

A—Year of draft
B—Draft positions
C—Games won by teams selecting in first half of draft
D—Difference in succeeding season
E—Draft positions
F—Games won by teams selecting in second half of draft
G—Difference in succeeding season

"REVELATION REQUIRES PLENTY OF TIME"

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

TRICKS OF THE TRADES

TIME—THE CONSISTENT TEST OF THE VALUE OF A PRO FOOTBALL TRADE

BY CHUCK BENEDICT

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the National Football League's search for playing talent, a socialistic system exists in maintaining an even distribution of purchasing power among the 26 teams.

No matter how a team's personnel may deteriorate through injuries, early retirements, poor original scouting or subsequent poor coaching, each year that team has the same opportunity as any of its opponents to come up with appropriate new personnel through the annual NFL draft of college players. And if a team finishes low in the standings because of this deterioration, it gets a higher priority spot in the next annual draft.

Through the existing system, a team's revitalization clout is found in the potential of its draft choices—select the right men in the draft and build a dynasty. The secret is in making the most of a draft choice's longevity factor. It's a matter of time, wisely used.

There are sidebar approaches to the use of the draft which reflect free enterprise, despite the centralized concept of the draft as a controlled leveler. For example, a team has been scouted wisely and coached well. It is relatively free from injuries. Under such conditions, it probably has built up a surplus of good personnel at several positions. Since there are men wasting away on the bench who would be of value to other teams, trades are in order. Deals bring in more top personnel in needed positions and/or extra draft choices to help stockpile more top-level talent. Therefore, such a team can overcome the socialistic restrictions of a common draft by capitalistically scouting, coaching and trading well.

For years, a member of the Los Angeles Rams speakers bureau has invited the challenge of questions from his audiences only to get a generous sprinkling of complaints about trades. In fact, many have indicated they felt the Rams were the worst traders in sports history. The thoughts have been voiced in many ways, including:

"You guys traded a whole football team for Les Richter. It almost wrecked you, right?"

"How come you traded a whole team for Ollie Matson? That was a real a rip-off!"

"You trade Norm Van Brocklin to the Eagles and he gets them a title. You call that smart?"

"You trade all your good quarterbacks, and who do you ever get for them? A bunch of draft choices! Can a draft choice throw passes and call signals, dummy?"

It's true that only Bob Waterfield, among Ram quarterbacks of note, retired as a Ram. All other top-level QB's in L.A. history—Jim Hardy, Bobby Thomason, Norm Van Brocklin, Rudy Bukich, Bill Wade, Zeke Bratkowski, Frank Ryan, Bill Munson, Roman Gabriel and John Hadl—were dispatched in trades.

As a representative of the house, the speaker began to build his defense by checking the team's files for the stories behind a few of these barters. In so doing, he uncovered some facts regarding trade-strings. (A trade-string is the longevity of a trade, tracing the continuation of it through subsequent similar moves. For example, player "A" performs for many years, then is traded for player "B" who plays for a while, then is traded for a draft choice who becomes player "C," who plays for several years and then is traded, etc. This is a trade-string.)

Also, he became aware that there are many ways of evaluating a trade:

1. How did the traded players perform for their new teams? (This is a "judgment call" and difficult to pinpoint because of the varying overall team success.)
2. How long did the traded players perform for their new teams? (This is a better way, perhaps, but it does not take into consideration the value of the player to his team before the trade.)
3. What did the traded player "cost" the trading team originally, and how much longevity did the trading team get altogether out of the traded player *and* his replacement-in-trade? (This is possible to analyze with consistency, and becomes our trade-evaluation factor.)

Of course, some trade-strings begin with a free agent signing, and in such a case as the Bobby Layne trade (Fig. 6), it means that all the benefits of the trade-string were received at no draft choice "cost" whatsoever.

A typical example of trade-string longevity would be: Player "A" is a fifth-round draft choice. He plays for four years, is traded for player "B" who plays for six years and then retires. The team received 10 years of longevity for one fifth-round draft choice in that trade-string.

In 1952, the Rams scratched a few headlines by trading 11 contracts to the Dallas Texans for Les Richter, shortly after Richter had been drafted (Fig. 1). Tracing the original "cost" of the 11 was impossible, for some had come in a cost-free absorption draft of surplus players from the folded AAFC.

However, the chart shows that from the 12 players involved in the 11-for-1 deal, the Rams got 23 years of service, Dallas-Baltimore got six and the rest of the league two. That doesn't make it look as if a "whole team" was traded for one man.

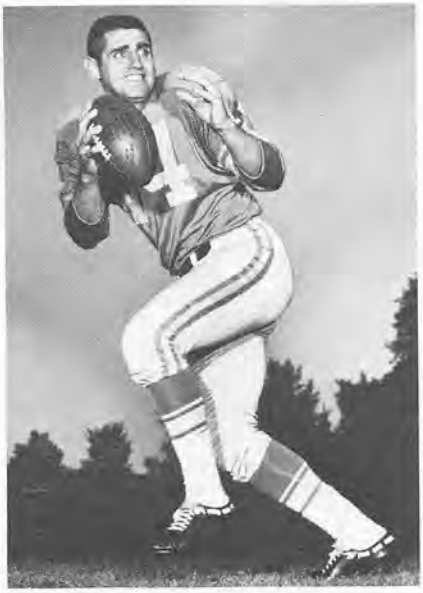
However, the Ollie Matson trade seven years later doesn't begin to compare with the success of the Richter trade (Fig. 2). In fact, the Cardinals had Matson's services for six of his seven best years. (He did gain 863 yards in the 12-game 1959 Ram season, to finish 3rd among NFL ball carriers.)

The original "cost" to the Cards: one first-round draft choice. The original "cost" to the Rams: two 2nd DCs, one 3rd DC, one 4th DC, one 5th DC, one 6th DC and two 26th DCs. The Rams paid much more for the purchase of 19 years than did the Cards for the purchase of 22 years (plus subsequent Cardinal follow-up trades).

After four years with the Rams, Matson was traded to the Lions for Harley Sewell, who played one Ram season and retired to scouting.

Norm Van Brocklin's draft and trade history require some sub-surface analysis (Fig. 4). On the face of it, one might wonder why the Rams waited so long (four rounds) to draft perhaps the greatest pure long passer in NFL history.

Van's senior football season at Ore-



Earl Morrall played seven years for the Detroit Lions. He succeeded the great Bobby Layne. Morrall was himself traded in 1965.

gon University was scheduled to be 1949, making him first eligible for the 1950 NFL draft. However, in filling out a Ram questionnaire in 1947, Norm was asked to give his expected date of graduation. His answer was "1949 ma." The "ma" properly was interpreted by Ram owner Dan Reeves and scout Eddie Kotal to be the hesitant start and incomplete dangling of the intended word "maybe." (See Petersen's 7th PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL 1962, P. 120.)

NFL rules decreed that a collegiate player could not become an NFL player until his original academic class had been given a four-year opportunity to graduate. This was a self-imposed bylaw by which the NFL did not allow any of its franchises to raid a college team of those with further original eligibility. The only exception was that a man who graduated before completing his college eligibility obviously was entitled to no further college football and, of course, could be drafted.

The Rams felt secure in their belief that no other NFL team was aware that Van Brocklin was taking advantage of the post-war opportunity offered on so many campuses for married students to accelerate their schedules and graduate as soon as possible.

When the 1949 draft took place late in 1948, the Rams waited until the fourth round before revealing Van Brocklin as their "sleeper" choice. A rival owner laughed and said to Reeves, "Your information is wrong. Van Brocklin didn't enter Oregon until April, 1946 (that was correct). He's got another season at Oregon. He won't graduate until 1950. Your selection is invalid."

But the Dutchman's graduation date

THE RICHTER TRADE

PLAYER TRADED	RAM YEARS	YEARS PLAYED AFTER TRADE
1) Dick Hoerner	5	1—Dallas
2) Tom Keane	4	3—Dallas-Balt. 1—Chi. Cards
3) Gabby Sims	2	0
4) Joe Reid	1	1—Dallas
5) Jack Halliday	1	0
6) Vic Vasicek	1	0
7) Dave Anderson	0	0
8) Aubry Phillips	0	0
9) Billy Baggett	0	1—Dallas
10) Rich McKissack	0	1—Dallas
11) Dick Wilkins	0	1—Dallas 1—New York Giants
	14	8—Dallas 2—Others
(Les Richter)	9	
Total	**23**	**10**

Fig. 1

THE MATSON TRADE

ORIGINAL COST	PLAYER TRADED	RAM YEARS	YEARS PLAYED AFTER TRADE
1) L.A.'s 6th DC ('54)	Ken Panfil	3	4—Cards
2) L.A.'s 26th DC ('52)	Frank Fuller	4	4—Cards 1—Eagles
3) L.A.'s 5th DC ('54)	Art Hauser	4	1½—Cards ½—Giants 2—AFL
4) L.A.'s 26th DC ('54)	Glen Holtzman	4	0
5) L.A.'s 3rd DC ('59)	Larry Hickman	0	1—Cards 1—Packers
6) L.A.'s 2nd DC ('59)	Don Brown	0	1—AFL
7) L.A.'s 4th DC ('59)	John Tracey	0	2—Cards 1—Eagles 5—AFL
8) L.A.'s 2nd DC ('60)	L.A.'s 2nd DC ('60) (Mike McGee)	0	3—Cards
		15	15½—Cards 11½—Others
(Cards' 1st DC)('52)	(Ollie Matson)	(4)	(6—Cards) (4—Others)
	Total	**19**	**21½—Cards** **15½—Others**

Fig. 2

THE GABRIEL TRADE

ORIGINAL COST	PLAYER INVOLVED	RAM YEARS	DISPOSITION
L.A.'s 19th DC ('51)	Andy Robustelli	5	TRADED ('56) to N.Y. Giants for N.Y.'s 1st DC ('57)
	N.Y.'S 1st DC ('57)— Del Shofner	4	TRADED ('62) to N.Y. Giants in up-grading to Minn.'s 1st DC ('62)
	Minn.'s 1st DC ('62)— Roman Gabriel	11	TRADED ('73) to Phila. for 1) Harold Jackson 2) Tony Baker 3) Phila.'s 1st DC ('74) 4) Phila.'s 1st DC ('75) 5) Phila.'s 3rd DC ('75)
	Harold Jackson	2 +	Active Ram
	Tony Baker	2 +	Active Ram
	Phila.'s 1st DC ('74)— John Cappelletti	1 +	Active Ram
	Phila.'s 1st DC ('75)— Dennis Harrah	0 +	Active Ram
	Phila.'s 3rd DC ('75)— Dan Nugent	0 +	Active Ram
	Total	**25+**	

(Note: The New York Giants' 1st DC, 1962, which was involved in the Del Shofner trade, already had been well "paid for" by the Rams in a separate trade-string. For a total "cost" of one 1st DC, one 4th DC and one 5th DC, the Rams had received 16 years of Bill Wade, Zeke Bratkowski, John Guzik and Lindon Crow; plus the acquisition of the Giants' 1st DC of '62. It was in the upgrading from this DC to the Vikings' higher priority 1st DC of '62 that the Rams gave Shofner to the Giants.)

Fig. 3

TRICKS OF THE TRADES

was June 19, 1949. That made him a Ram in 1949 at a "cost" of no more than a fourth-round draft choice.

Norm helped the Rams to five first place conference finishes in his nine years of service. However, during a communications problem with coach Sid Gillman, Van Brocklin announced his "retirement" after the 1957 season. The move was just a screen to invite trade offers. The Eagles' proposal was suitable to the Rams and a trade was made prior to the 1958 season.

Immediately the cry went up that the Rams had traded away a pennant maker for a couple of nobodies, but that hardly was the case. In the deal, the Rams gave only Van Brocklin, but received Alex (Buck) Lansford, an All-Pro offensive lineman, Jimmy Harris, a defensive back, and the Eagles' first draft choice for 1959.

Lansford played three years for the Rams, and Harris played one. Lansford then retired. Harris was the subject of a legally disputed double signing between the NFL and AFL Dallas teams, so the Rams, who had traded him to the Cowboys, were not compensated for him.

It was the draft choice, only subtly present at first, which slowly blossomed into one of the all-time great Ram acquisitions. The Eagles' draft choice was used to select Dick Bass, the first known "future" (because of an injury he was taking five years to use his four years of collegiate eligibility) to be selected on the first round of an NFL draft. As a "future," Bass joined the team a year later (1960), played 10 years, broke almost all Ram career records for ball carriers, became the first Ram to gain 1000 yards in a season (he did it twice) and was the most dependable blocker in the history of star Ram ball carriers. In short, Bass became the most valuable running back in Ram history.

In summary, the Van Brocklin trade gave the Rams 23 years (19 by two All Pros) from a single fourth-round draft choice.

The Roman Gabriel trade can be spectacularly disposed of under the caption, "The greatest 19th round draft choice of all" (Fig. 3).

In 1951, the Rams selected Andy Robustelli, a defensive end from little Arnold College in Connecticut, on the 19th round. After five Ram years, in which he made All Pro twice, Robustelli declared his intention of keeping a closer year-around watch on his sporting goods store in Stamford, Connecticut. Under the fear that Andy would retire, the Rams traded him to the New York Giants (just a commuter's hitch from Stamford) for the Giants' first draft choice in 1957.

The Rams used that selection to pick Del Shofner, who played four Ram years, including two All-Pro seasons as an offensive end. However, in 1961, Shofner was beset by nagging ulcers that had bothered him severely the previous season. A change of scenery was needed, and did the job, as the Rams traded Shofner to the Giants in a special deal. (The Rams owned the Giants' first choice for 1962, but preferred the Minnesota Vikings' higher-priority choice, which the Giants held. Shofner was the compensation for the upgrading.)

The Vikings' first choice now belonged to the Rams, who used it to select quarterback Roman Gabriel. Over the next 11 years, Roman became one of the top three quarterbacks in Ram history, rated by team historians behind only Bob Waterfield and Norm Van Brocklin.

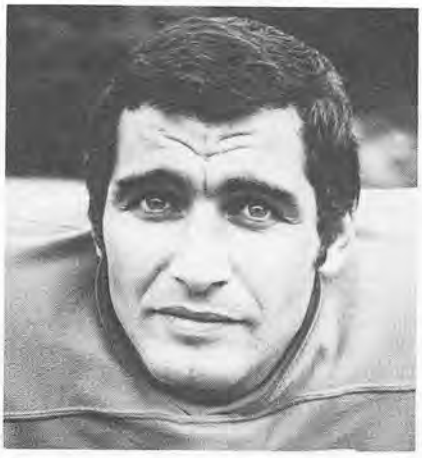
Eventually, Gabriel was traded to Philadelphia for a combination of five players and draft choices: Harold Jackson, All-Pro wide receiver; Tony Baker, short yardage bulldozer; the Eagles' 1st DC ('74) (Heisman trophy

1. Roger Brown played DT for the Lions seven years. The Lions got, all told, more than 58 years for their original free agent choice of 1948.

2. Mike Lucci played linebacker for the Lions for nine full years, and then retired. He came in '65 from the Browns, traded for Earl Morrall.

3. Bobby Layne was the Lions' famed QB for eight years, leading the team to three world titles. He became a Hall of Fame member in 1967.

1



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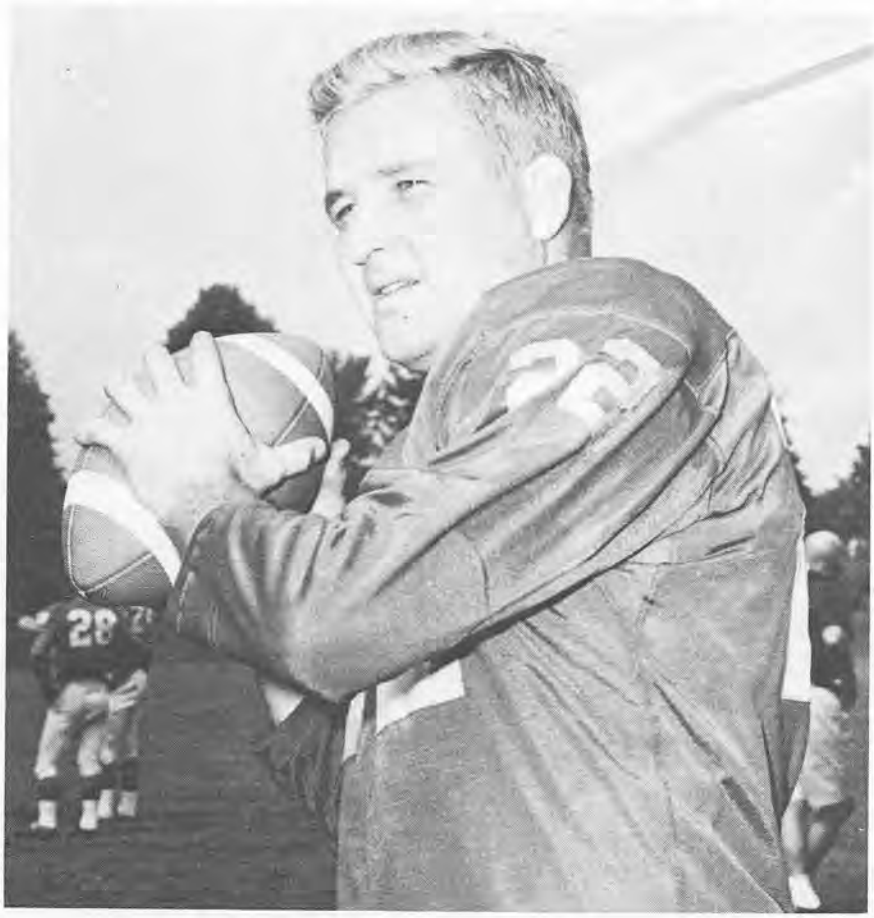

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winner John Cappelletti); the Eagles' 1st DC ('75) (Dennis Harrah) and the Eagles' 3rd DC ('75) (Dan Nugent).

Thus, through the 1974 playing season, the Rams have received 25 years of service (22 from established All-Pro players) from one 19th round choice ('51). For speculation, one might guess the number of years of service yet to be received from Jackson, Baker, Cappelletti, Harrah, Nugent and/or anyone else subsequently received-in-trade for any of the five. (A projection of 50 total years for the one 19th round choice does not seem totally out of line.)

Gabriel's successor as Ram QB, John Hadl, was the primary tradee in a deal which is off to a flying trade-string start (Fig. 5).

In 1968, the Rams gave Dallas a fifth-round choice for defensive lineman Coy Bacon, who played five Ram years. In 1972, the Rams signed running back Bob Thomas as a free agent. After that season, Bacon and Thomas were traded to San Diego for Hadl, who played 1½ Ram seasons (and was named conference MVP), then was traded to Green Bay for five high-level draft choices. This trade-string beginning could mushroom into a long list of performances for a total "cost" of one fifth-round choice.

This study of just some of the Ram trades also revealed one of the worst deals ever made by an NFL team. In 1969, the Rams traded one-year veteran wide receiver Harold Jackson (14th DC, '68) and rookie defensive lineman John Zook (4th DC, '69) to the Philadelphia Eagles for running back Izzy Lang. With the Eagles, Jackson became an All Pro immediately, and maintained that status on his later return to the Rams. Atlanta, in one of its better moves, acquired Zook and others from the Eagles for Jim Purnell. Zook, the only player in that Falcon-Eagle trade still active, is an Atlanta star. Lang gained a grand total of one yard from scrimmage during his Ram career. He was shunted to Denver and disappeared from sight.

After these Ram trades were dissected, it was felt that other NFL teams must have the same sort of trade histories lingering beneath their surface files. But a casual inquiry brought little reply. Most teams have had no reason to be conscious of the longevity of trade-strings, simply because the true current value of a trade is of primary importance to the coaches and fans, quite apart from the long-range study, which could only come, in some instances, years later. Trade-string stories are of historical value, never currently vital.

Washington did have a neat QB trade-string which now has ended. Eddie LeBaron was a 10th round choice in 1950, played seven years, was trad-

THE VAN BROCKLIN TRADE

ORIGINAL COST	PLAYER TRADED	RAM YEARS	DISPOSITION
L.A.'s 4th DC ('49)	Norm Van Brocklin	9	TRADE ('58) to Eagles for 1) Alex Lansford 2) Jimmy Harris 3) Eagles' 1st DC ('59)
	Alex (Buck) Lansford	3	Retired
	Jimmy Harris	1	TRADE ('59) to Dallas (disputed; no reimbursement)
	Eagles' 1st DC ('59)— Dick Bass	10	Retired
	Total	**23**	

Fig. 4

THE HADL TRADE

ORIGINAL COST	PLAYER INVOLVED	RAM YEARS	DISPOSITION
L.A.'s 5th DC ('69)	L.A.'s 5th DC ('69)	0	TRADED ('68) to Dallas for Coy Bacon
	Coy Bacon	5	TRADED ('73), with Bob Thomas, to S.D. for John Hadl.
(Free agent)	Bob Thomas	1	TRADED ('73), with Coy Bacon, to S.D. for John Hadl.
	John Hadl	1½	TRADED ('74) to G. Bay for 1) G.B.'s 1st DC ('75) 2) Balt.'s 2nd DC ('75) 3) G.B.'s 3rd DC ('75) 4) G.B.'s 1st DC ('76) 5) G.B.'s 2nd DC ('76)
	G.B.'s 1st DC ('75)— Mike Fanning	0 +	Active Ram
	Balt.'s 2nd DC ('75)— Monte Jackson	0 +	Active Ram
	G.B.'s 3rd DC ('75)— Geoff Reece	0 +	Active Ram
	G.B.'s 1st DC ('76)	0 +	Future Ram
	G.B.'s 2nd DC ('76)	0 +	Future Ram
	Total	**7½+**	

Fig. 5

THE LAYNE TRADE

ORIGINAL COST	PLAYER INVOLVED	LION YEARS	DISPOSITION
(Free Agent - '48)	Bobby Mann	2	TRADED ('50) to N.Y. Bulldogs for Bobby Layne
	Bobby Layne	8	TRADED ('58) to Pitt. for 1) Earl Morrall 2) Pitt's 2nd DC ('59) 3) Pitt's 4th DC ('60)
	Earl Morrall	7	3-TEAM TRADE ('65) to N.Y. Giants for 1) Mike Lucci from Cleve. 2) Darrell Dess from Giants 3) Giants' 4th DC ('66)
	Pitt.'s 2nd DC ('59) - Mike Rabold	1	TRADED ('60) to Cards for Carl Brettschneider
	Pitt.'s 4th DC ('60) - Roger Brown	7	TRADED ('67) to L.A. for 1) L.A.'s 1st DC ('68) 2) L.A.'s 3rd DC ('68) 3) L.A.'s 2nd DC ('69)
	Mike Lucci	9	RETIRED
	Darrell Dess	0	*Traded (See note)
	Giants' 4th DC ('66) - Doug Van Horn	1	SOLD to N.Y. Giants ('67)
	Carl Brettschneider	4	RETIRED
	L.A.'s 1st DC ('68) - Earl McCullouch	6	RELEASED
	L.A.'s 3rd DC ('68) - Charlie Sanders	7 +	Active Lion
	L.A.'s 2bd DC ('69) - Jim Yarbrough	6 +	Active Lion
	Total	**58+**	

***(NOTE:** Darrell Dess, never playing with Detroit, was traded to Washington, along with a 5th DC, for George Izo and Ted Karras. The 5th DC involved had an interesting history. It actually was Washington's own 5th choice, merely being traded back to the 'Skins. The Lions had acquired that 5th DC for Danny Lewis in a prior trade. Danny Lewis had been a seven-year running back for the Lions after being drafted on the 6th round in 1958. But the Dess trade to Washington is not part of the Layne trade-string.)

Fig. 6

ed for a draft choice which was exercised to select Norm Snead, who played for three seasons and was traded for Sonny Jurgensen, who played 11 seasons before retiring. The 'Skins received 21 years of top-level quarterbacking out of one 10th choice. (Others involved in the Snead-Jurgensen trade cancelled each other and did not affect the string.)

Green Bay's best "cost" story is that of Bart Starr, who played 16 years as an All-Pro, world championship quarterback for the expenditure of one 17th round choice.

Johnny Unitas gave Baltimore 17 years of All-Pro, world championship quarterbacking, and may have been the best all-around modern QB in NFL history. He was "cost-free"—a free agent!

San Francisco and Pittsburgh are teams which now trade so little that there's no likelihood, there, of trade-string stories. But both are a step behind Dallas, which ended the 1974 season with a most unusual roster of 47 active players. Not one of the 47 ever had suited up for an NFL game in any other team's uniform. A completely home-grown, trade-free squad!

It was in a routine check with Elliott Trumbull of the Detroit Lions that the most startling of all our story's trade-strings was uncovered. Elliott suggested we research the Bobby Layne trade. We did! It's the capper (Fig. 6)!

In 1948, the Lions signed the great Michigan end, Bobby Mann, as a free agent. (The utilization of black players was so scarce at that time that it was not yet a practice to draft them.) Two years later, the Lions traded Camp Wilson to the New York Bulldogs for quarterback Bobby Layne, and when Wilson refused to report, Mann was the substitute tradee. (Mann never played for the Bulldogs, and was moved along to the Packers, but the Layne-for-Mann trade, with a hint of cash thrown in, was legitimate and complete.)

For eight years, Layne was Detroit's hero-quarterback, leading the Lions to three world titles. (He became a Hall of Famer in 1967.) After two games in 1958, Bobby was traded to the Steelers for quarterback Earl Morrall plus a second-round draft choice in 1959 and a fourth choice in 1960. (It was the second time that Layne had appeared, on paper, on the rolls of both teams. The Steelers had drafted him in '48 on a choice acquired from the Lions, and then Layne was traded by Pittsburgh to the Chicago Bears, who moved him along to the Bulldogs in 1949.)

Morrall played seven years for the Lions; the second choice ('59), Mike Rabold, played one; the fourth choice ('60), Roger Brown, played seven. At that point, the Lions had received 25 years (24 by players ultimately regarded as All Pros) for their free agent signing in '48.

But the string continued. In 1965, Morrall was involved in a three-team trade which brought All-Pro linebacker Mike Lucci (nine Lion years) from Cleveland and Darrell Dess and a fourth choice from the Giants.

Mike Rabold, in 1960, was traded to the Cardinals for Carl Brettschneider, who played four Detroit years, then retired. Roger Brown played seven years for the Lions, then was traded to the Rams for three draft choices who turned out to be Earl McCullouch (six years), Charlie Sanders (seven years) and Jim Yarbrough (six years).

Dess did not play for Detroit, and was not a further part of the trade-string. (See note, Fig. 6.) Doug Van Horn, chosen on the Giants' fourth choice ('66), played one Lion year and was sold. McCullouch was released.

However, Sanders and Yarbrough continue the string on the current Lions' roster. The Lions, at this point, have received 58 years of service (40 turned in by All-Pro level people) in return for one free agent signing in 1948 and more to come as Sanders and Yarbrough continue to play.

Detroit, in the Bobby Layne trade-string, has made optimum use of time, at a minimum of "cost," to create one of the most unusual continued stories in NFL history, thanks to the tricks of the trades.

The Lions' original Bobby Mann—a free agent signee of 1948. He was the substitute trade in the deal which landed the Lions Bobby Layne.

"TRADES TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP"

Time is a factor in the evaluation of a player trade, and in the case of the traded quarterback, time is even more important. A player at certain other positions might become a star as a rookie, particularly a good running back who can block. But the quarterback takes longer to become dependable. Therefore, the traded quarterback usually has been around awhile. It's his maturity which makes him a sought-after commodity in the trade market.

In addition to the obvious physical challenges, professional football more and more is a complicated game of mental maneuvers. No longer can a rookie quarterback step in at the pro level and lead a team into championship contention. He must serve an increasingly lengthy apprenticeship.

There have been instances in which rookie signal callers have been thrown to the wolves. Jim Plunkett at New England and some years ago Norm Snead at Washington were given starting jobs as first-year men, but as capable as they were, there was no pretense that they could lead a team successfully at the title-contender level that first year.

Coming out of World War II, a very unusual football player named Bob Waterfield stepped into the reorganizing post-war NFL and, as a rookie, defied the tradition. He led the Rams to a world title. Since then, no one has done this in his first year, nor even in his second season. Paul Christman, entering the game the same time as Waterfield, led the Cards to a title in his third year, and Johnny Unitas followed suit with the Colts in 1958. Roger Staubach, at Dallas in 1971, needs an asterisk by his third year accomplishment. His pro career was delayed four years by a Navy hitch, and during that time he studied the Dallas playbook constantly and attended pre-season training camps while on Navy leave.

Since Waterfield, the level of maturity of the NFL championship quarterback gradually has increased, and his average experience for the last 30 years is 6.67 years.

The chart shows that 1975 should be an interesting year for some of the NFL's younger quarterbacks. San Francisco's promising Tom Owen will be only in his second season. Joe Ferguson, who has fit the Buffalo requirements as if he posed for the prototype, still will be only in his third year. Cincinnati's Ken Anderson and New England's Plunkett are just reaching the fringes of the QB maturity level in their fifth season. (Terry Bradshaw went all the way in 1974, his fifth year at Pittsburgh.) And if their teams are ready, this could be a year of contention for sixth year performers Ken Stabler of Oakland and James Harris of Los Angeles.

MATURITY—NFL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTERBACKS
(Post-World War II)

YEAR	TEAM	QUARTERBACK	QB'S YEAR IN NFL	A	B
1945	CLEVELAND	BOB WATERFIELD	1st	0	0.00
1946	CHI. BEARS	SID LUCKMAN	8th	7	3.50
1947	CHI. CARDS	PAUL CHRISTMAN	3rd	2	3.00
1948	PHILADELPHIA	TOMMY THOMPSON	7th	6	3.75
1949	PHILADELPHIA	TOMMY THOMPSON	8th	7	4.40
1950	CLEVELAND	OTTO GRAHAM	5th	4	4.33
1951	LOS ANGELES	BOB WATERFIELD	7th	6	4.57
1952	DETROIT	BOBBY LAYNE	5th	4	4.50
1953	DETROIT	BOBBY LAYNE	6th	5	4.55
1954	CLEVELAND	OTTO GRAHAM	9th	8	4.90
1955	CLEVELAND	OTTO GRAHAM	10th	9	5.27
1956	N.Y. GIANTS	CHARLIE CONERLY	9th	8	5.50
1957	DETROIT	BOBBY LAYNE	10th	9	5.77
1958	BALTIMORE	JOHNNY UNITAS	3rd	2	5.50
1959	BALTIMORE	JOHNNY UNITAS	4th	3	5.33
1960	PHILADELPHIA	NORM VAN BROCKLIN	12th	11	5.69
1961	GREEN BAY	BART STARR	6th	5	5.65
1962	GREEN BAY	BART STARR	7th	6	5.67
1963	CHI. BEARS	BILL WADE	10th	9	5.84
1964	CLEVELAND	FRANK RYAN	7th	6	5.85
1965	GREEN BAY	BART STARR	10th	9	6.00
1966	GREEN BAY	BART STARR	11th	10	6.18
1967	GREEN BAY	BART STARR	12th	11	6.39
1968	BALTIMORE	JOHNNY UNITAS	13th	12	6.63
1969	MINNESOTA	JOE KAPP	*11th	*10	6.76
		(*Kapp played 8 years in Canada prior to NFL)			
1970	BALTIMORE	JOHNNY UNITAS	15th	14	7.04
1971	DALLAS	ROGER STAUBACH	3rd	2	6.85
1972	MIAMI	BOB GRIESE	6th	5	6.79
1973	MIAMI	BOB GRIESE	7th	6	6.76
1974	PITTSBURGH	TERRY BRADSHAW	5th	4	6.67

A—Years previous pro experience going into championship season.
B—Accumulative average previous pro experience, NFL championship quarterbacks, going into championship season.

"GOOD QUARTERBACKS ALSO NEED TIME"

JAMES HARRIS- HIS TIME HAS COME

WHEN HARRIS TOOK OVER, TOKENISM BECAME UNNECESSARY . . . AND FORGOTTEN

BY RICH ROBERTS

The timing could have been better when the Los Angeles Rams announced that they had traded quarterback John Hadl to Green Bay.

"I'd told a friend of mine I would come by and talk to his Little League kids," recalls James Harris, Hadl's successor, "and I was driving there when I heard it on the radio. I couldn't believe it. I ran a red light."

If Harris was rendered temporarily color blind at that moment, so was coach Chuck Knox. "To me," Knox has said often, "ability is color blind." All Knox knew was that the Rams, at 3-2, already had lost as many football games as they had all of the previous season and that "we felt we had to make a change and that James Harris had the tools and the ability. Forget the color thing."

Harris' color happens to be black, a unique characteristic among starting quarterbacks in the National Football League but a point that failed to impress the officer who pulled him over. "Actually," says James, "the light was caution yellow. I was right. But he stopped me and gave me a ticket anyway. No, he didn't know who I was, and I didn't say anything. I think eventually he may have found out."

The last remark is accompanied by the hint of a smile below a conservative moustache that underlines a faint twinkle in the eyes, all props for Harris' low-key personality and heretofore undiscovered subtle sense of humor that saw him through a difficult transition. He prefers to be called by his given name—not Jim, Jimmy or the terribly arrogant "Jamie" a terribly arrogant TV personality is wont to use—and close acquaintances will call him

PHOTO BY ROBERT L. SMITH

PHOTO BY ROBERT L. SMITH

1. James Harris ran a red light when he learned over the radio that he would fall successor to John Hadl.

2. Harris, a strong passer, played a losing game with Buffalo from '69 to '71. He was the first black QB to open a season (with Bills in '69).

3. O.J. Simpson and Harris back in 1969 when both were just setting out.

"Shack," an old nickname of which the derivation, Harris says, "is a long, long story." Unlike Joe Gilliam, who did not shy from the glory when he was temporarily elevated into prominence as Jefferson Street Joe with the Pittsburgh Steelers last year, Harris played his role typically cool.

"I respected John Hadl," he says. "He was a good friend and I hated to see him go. But my thinking when they told me that I was going to play was that I had to play on the field. I couldn't tell people how good I was. I felt at the time—I always felt—that I was good, but I had to go out and earn some respect. I had to prove to my teammates that I could play and we could win. I wasn't ever concerned about how the fans felt or the press felt, as long as the guys on the field believed in me."

Knox called it "the acceptance factor." Wide receiver Jack Snow, who had played with three other Ram quarterbacks, says, "I knew he could throw the ball, and after the last half of the season it was obvious he's a winner." Offensive captain Joe Scibelli says, "He seldom says anything in the huddle except to call the play. He's not a holler guy. He leads his offense by example."

Although the specter of Joe Namath was evident at times—the lights dimmed on Broadway when it was reported in late October that the Jets' quarterback was playing out his option so he could join the Rams—Harris never wavered in leading the Rams to seven wins and two losses in the last nine games and a 19-10 win over Washington in the NFC semifinal—the Rams' first playoff win since 1951—before losing the title game at Minnesota, 14-10, through no fault of his own. With a rating of 85.3, he was the leading passer among NFC starters, finishing second only to the Redskins' Sonny Jurgensen, who wasn't a starter.

Throwing, winning: those were the yardsticks. If there was any concern about how the Rams would react to being led by a black quarterback or how the fans would receive him, it escaped those reporters with their ears closest to the ground. If a racial barrier had collapsed, nobody heard the crash. Harris didn't go out of his way to discuss it and few members of the Ram organization gave it a first thought, let alone a second.

The man himself was aware of the social implications of the situation but not awed by them. After all, he had been there before—the first black quarterback to start an NFL-sponsored game when he opened for Buffalo in 1969. But that was a different time and a different place. The Rams are title contenders; the Bills were not. Harris raises his eyebrows when a reporter asks if he ever won a game for the Bills. "At Buffalo?" he responds. "Every game we played, it looked like the other team was breaking the scoreboard."

O.J. Simpson remembers. He and Harris came into the league together through the back door that was Buffalo in '69. "Jim was a very good friend and a part of the many frustrations I had when I started," says Simpson, who was the Heisman Trophy winner out of USC and the first player selected in the draft. "I always thought that he should have been the quarterback who was playing. I can't remember anything specific, but at the time the thinking about black quarterbacks certainly didn't help him, and it really hurt him when he was cut because nobody claimed him. It's still hard for me to believe. I see a lot of quarterbacks around the league now—some starting—that can't come near Jim."

Ron Jaworski, now Harris' backup, remembers them both. Jaworski, the "Polish Rifle" from nearby Lackawanna, N.Y., says, "Sure, I saw Shack play. I used to sit up in the stands at old War Memorial Stadium and watch the Bills." His parents still have season tickets, which they plan to use to watch their son and Harris return to Buffalo for a pre-season game against the Bills this summer.

"Hmph," Harris snorts. "Rich kid."

"I used to buy my own," Jaworski insists. "They were $24 for a season and $3 a game. That's before Buffalo went big time. Shack had the reputation of throwing the ball through people. His first year I remember him throwing to Haven Moses in a pre-season game. It went right through Haven's hands and hit him in the face mask."

Harris was competing with Jack Kemp, a fading veteran who remained very much in favor with the fans, if not always with coach John Rauch, who chose Harris to open the season. "I was hurt going into that first game," says Harris, "and then I got hurt again. I came back, but Kemp was playing then and doing about as well as could be expected with the talent we had." So from then until the Bills released him two years later, Harris languished in limbo, eventually winding up on the Rams' taxi squad midway in the season of '72, his claim to fame being that he had been the first black quarterback to start an NFL game. He regarded it as no big deal, nor does he now.

"There have been others," he says, "and I wouldn't like to think that I was really the first. I'd like to think that in order for me to get the opportunity, a lot of guys contributed. There were (Marlin) Briscoe and Gilliam—and I was around for a number of years until I got my chance here. It's been a thing I wanted to do, because if I could do it, it would give other

guys coming along behind me an opportunity to play."

Harris grew up in Monroe, one of a string of cities along Interstate 20 through northern Louisiana that have produced several pro quarterbacks along with great athletes in several other sports.

"Terry Bradshaw is from Shreveport," Harris says, "Joe Ferguson is from Shreveport, Bert Jones is from Ruston, Matthew Reed is from Monroe...I really can't explain it. It's an indication of good athletes—not only good quarterbacks. I played basketball with Theodis Lee, who's with the Globetrotters, and I played against Elvin Hayes. We held him to 14 points. Yeah, I guarded him for awhile...until he hit six straight jump shots. And there were a lot of others from my area—Willis Reed, Butterbean Love, Lucius Jackson. In baseball we've had Ralph Garr, Lou Brock. In fact, in my hometown I think we have 10 athletes in professional football although we have only about 50,000 people. The bad thing about it is that they get very little recognition at home. Most of the guys are black."

And while Bradshaw, Ferguson and Jones sifted through piles of college offers, Harris and Reed, also black, wound up at a black school, Grambling. James says it wasn't because he couldn't go anywhere else but because he wouldn't go anywhere else.

"I had a lot of offers to go to other schools, but not to play quarterback. They really didn't come out openly and tell me, but the tone of the conversations indicated they weren't going to give me a chance to play quarterback. They always talked about my size and being able to play other positions, but I've always felt if blacks have been good enough to play wide receiver and everything else, certainly there was some guy good enough to play quarterback somewhere."

But Harris credits his college coach, Eddie Robinson, with having "more foresight on my being a professional quarterback and the first black quarterback than I did."

Harris has one brother and one sister. His father is deceased but his mother is living and, in fact, Harris was on his way north from New Orleans to Monroe to visit her after taking in the Super Bowl last January when the final saga of his remarkable 1974 season unfolded. The Pro Bowl was the following week in Miami but, after the Super Bowl, Minnesota's Fran Tarkenton decided that his arm was too sore to play. Knox, the NFC coach, went looking for Harris. "When they tried to call me," James says, "I was driving home with a friend of mine, Delles Howell, who plays (cornerback) for the Jets. When we got home my mother told me they'd been trying to reach me."

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

It's clear that every time something important happens, Harris is on the road. Perhaps the Rams should buy him a phone for his car.

So Harris went to Miami but he didn't start. That honor properly belonged to St. Louis' Jim Hart, one of the original selections who was unfortunately creamed in the second quarter. Enter James Harris, afterthought. Two hours later he was to emerge the hero and MVP after leading the NFC All-Stars from behind for their first victory in four years.

"I had a big incentive going down there," Harris reveals. "Last year I was out to O.J.'s house. He'd been the most valuable player in the Pro Bowl and I was looking at his trophy. I said, 'Well, one day I'm going to win one of these.' He started laughing and said I'd have to get there first. At the time I couldn't do much but laugh myself, not even knowing when I'd get a chance to play. Then when they called me and told me to come down, that was the first thing I thought about—being the MVP in the Pro Bowl. I had intentions when I went down there of winning it. I didn't say anything about it and I guess O.J. didn't even think about it. We were just joking because it seemed so unrealistic at the time."

Knox says, "When we brought him down to Miami and he got the MVP, it was a great tribute to him and bore out our confidence in him."

That confidence started building long before Harris became a starter. When Knox and his staff succeeded Tommy Prothro's regime in January of 1973, they immediately launched into a review of the material at hand. Hadl had been acquired from the San Diego Chargers and Roman Gabriel, miffed because he thought he was being undermined, was about to be dealt to Philadelphia. Harris, a taxi squadder, was inconspicuous in the background, along with recent second-round draftee Jaworski, whose collegiate experience had been with something called the "sidesaddle-T."

Knox says, "I came in with an open mind. We knew we had a veteran quarterback in Hadl, but everybody (the media) was concerned about our backup situation. The coaching staff decided we had two good young quarterbacks, and we decided then that either could do the job if anything happened to Hadl.

"The tough part," says Knox, "was that John Hadl had led us to 12-2 the year before. But after the Green Bay game we were 3-2, although a lot of things had happened that weren't Hadl's fault. The major concern in making the decision was, what is going to be best for the Rams? We decided to give James Harris the opportunity to be the quarterback the rest of the year."

As Hadl watched the following Sunday, Harris led the Rams to a 37-14 rout of the floundering San Francisco 49ers. Then the other shoe dropped. Two days later—the deadline for trading—Ram owner Carroll Rosenbloom phoned Packer general manager-coach Dan Devine. Rosenbloom insists to this day that his motives were innocent, i.e., "to ask about the health of Dan's wife, who had been ill," he says. "Then as we were about to hang up, he (Devine) asked if we would ever consider trading Hadl." Devine made Rosenbloom an offer he couldn't refuse—a carload of premium draft picks—and the deal was made. The Rams had committed their

JAMES HARRIS' NFL PASSING STATISTICS

Year Club	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct.TD	Int.	Pct.Int.	Rating
1969—Buffalo	36	15	270	41.7	7.50	1	2.8	1	2.8	65.8
1970—Buffalo	50	24	338	48.0	6.76	3	6.0	4	8.0	56.9
1971—Buffalo	103	51	512	49.5	4.97	1	1.0	6	5.8	43.2
1972—Buffalo—L.A	Did not play									
1973—Los Angeles	11	7	68	63.6	6.18	0	0.0	0	0.0	80.9
1974—Los Angeles	198	106	1544	53.5	7.80	11	5.6	6	3.0	85.3
Totals	**398**	**203**	**2732**	**51.0**	**6.86**	**16**	**4.0**	**17**	**4.3**	**68.6**

future to Harris.

Ken Meyer, the Rams' offensive coordinator who has worked with Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, John Brodie and other top quarterbacks at various stages in their careers, avoids comparisons but assesses the development of Harris, who was 28 in July: "He has a very, very strong arm, yet he has the ability to change speeds—as evidence, Lawrence McCutcheon was his No. 1 receiver. There is room for improvement on his long-range accuracy, and he'll get it with experience. His touch is going to come. I always like a quarterback who can throw the 20-yard 'outs'—the ability to get the ball on the sideline with speed. James can do this."

Harris, in his matter-of-fact way that might sound boastful, once said that "nobody can outrun my arm," although he isn't sure how far he can throw a football. "I recall reading when I was a kid about somebody hurting his arm trying to see how far he could throw, so I've never tried it. I feel this way: I've never been in a situation where, by the time I drop seven steps from the snap of the ball, the receiver can run out of my distance. I tell my receivers never to give up, unless they run clean out of the end zone and up into the stands and out the tunnel into the parking lot. Unless they do that, I can reach 'em. So I don't know how far I can throw, but unless they're up there with the popcorn man, they're still within my range.

"But I think I'm a passer rather than just a thrower. I can throw all the passes because I've worked on them through the years. I can throw long and short and, in fact, if there's one phase of football that I have a lot of confidence in, it's my ability to throw. When they send in a pass, if there's any way the man's going to be open, I think I can complete every pass."

But quarterbacking is more than passing. Harris did say "when they send in a pass . . . ." Basically, the coaches called every play for him in 1974, alternating Snow and Lance Rentzel as messengers, although Harris improvised successfully on several occasions and audibilized much of the offense in the playoff win over Washington to adjust to George Allen's shifting defenses. Although Hadl called most of his own plays, Knox says, "Our calling the plays has nothing to do with who we have at quarterback. We call every defensive play, too. It gives our coaches upstairs an opportunity to know exactly what's happening."

While Knox concedes that a quarterback on the field "has a feel for the game," he points out, "we sit down with our quarterbacks every week and they prepare a game list . . . what passes they want to throw in certain situations, what running plays they'll call. So they know what the play's going to be when we send it in. I'm not sure what we're going to do this year, but I know this: James Harris can call plays."

With Harris' emergence, the Rams started to develop a versatile attack from myriad formations, some keyed to his ability as a runner, which Hadl wasn't. There was the "Lonesome Lawrence" offense featuring McCutcheon as the only set back, with four wide receivers or three tight ends or other strange combinations of personnel depending on the situation. The defense still had to regard Harris as a running threat—and, in fact, he was nearly 100 percent effective diving over the line on extreme short-yardage plays. Meyer says there is no concern about Harris getting hurt. "Not him. He's big and strong—6-4, and he told me the other day he was 215."

But what Knox and Meyer and Harris' teammates like best about their quarterback is his composure. Harris, on the field and off, is a cool dude. "He's a very unflappable guy," Meyer says. "He never gets rattled. He'll stand in the pocket until he finds somebody."

Nevertheless, the coaches sought to ease Harris' burden in a couple of ways when he first succeeded Hadl—first, by sending in the plays; second, by telling him, Meyer says, "You've got a good football team. You've got a team that can run the ball and play defense. You've got a lot of backs. Don't burden yourself. It isn't necessary for you to go out and win all the games for us yourself."

Harris figures he will grow with the job. "Last year when they told me they were going to call the plays I thought it was the best thing for me at the time. I think I'm capable of calling my own plays. I'd like to try. But we went to the championship game with them doing it, and if they decide to do it again I won't object at all, because all I want to do is win, and if we can win with them calling the plays I have no reason to gripe. I am only here to win. That's all I want out of football—to win. They can let the center call the plays if they want to. But, yes, if I had a preference, I would prefer calling them myself."

The Rams are making no pretense of declaring the quarterback position "wide-open" in '75. Harris is No. 1, Jaworski No. 2. "Ron Jaworski's going to be a fine quarterback, too," says Knox. "When his time comes, he can do the job."

Harris is only slightly bitter that his time didn't come until the sixth year of his career. "I feel I was just as good the day I walked into camp at Buffalo as I am now," he says. "I have more experience, maturity and confidence now, but all the things I can do now I could do then."

Knox reasons, "He was in the right place at the right time. Being exposed to John Hadl and the people we have in the teaching aspect of our team, he had a chance to blossom."

It was just a matter of time.

1. Green Bay's Mike McCoy, blood in eye, moves in on Harris, who seems to stand alone looking for his pass receiver. Harris is a strong, determined passer; ask his receivers.

2. Glowering from beneath his helmet, Harris calls it on the Ram offensive line against the 49ers.

"HARRIS BESPEAKS THINGS TO COME"

James Harris has made the statement that he felt he was just as good when he walked into the Buffalo camp as a rookie as he was five years later when he became the Rams' starting quarterback. This is a proper reflection of the quiet confidence which always has exemplified Harris' personality. It is natural and normal for a man with a controlled ego to feel a quiet confidence that he can do the job at any time.

But the facts don't bear out Harris' statement, at least if one wishes to apply to his contention a general premise for small college quarterbacks. In Harris' case, he well may have been as good six years ago, but if he was, he was most unusual.

As we saw in our chart on page 37, contending teams just cannot afford to rely on the inexperienced quarterback. A team must mature in order to go all the way to the championship, and with it the signal caller must mature, as well.

James Harris and his backup quarterback Ron Jaworski not only have been involved with the traditional NFL learning period, they also have had to overcome the fact that they came from small colleges. Harris (at Grambling) and Jaworski (at Youngstown) played on good college football teams which played interesting and highly competitive football. In fact, Grambling has turned out far more than its share of pro stars (Harris, Tank Younger, Willie Davis, Buck Buchanan, Willie Brown, Nemiah Wilson, Rosey Taylor, Clifton McNeil and many more). But there's no denying that Grambling and Youngstown are much smaller football powers than schools in the Big Eight, the Big Ten, the Pac-8, the SEC or the SWC. And of course, they're much smaller than the big independents, like Notre Dame, Penn State and other giants of the "freelance" league.

There's no doubt that Grambling and Youngstown attract fine football talent, which gets good head coaching. But it's the depth of coaching at these small schools which affects the quarterbacks. There isn't the kind of money available for coaching staffs to match the quantity and quality of a Dan Devine staff at Notre Dame, for example. More importantly, the opposition teams also are operating with limited coaching budgets. This does not demean the competitive quality of the teams in these smaller-budget leagues. But it is obvious that with a smaller, lower-paid staff, a head coach such as Eddie Robinson at Grambling (an established success for years) is going to be unable to teach his quarterbacks the same amount of sophistication in reading opposition defenses and in running intricate offenses. And since the opposition encountered by these smaller colleges also is operating with limited funds, there's little in the way of sophisticated defenses for the quarterback to read.

It is no wonder, then, that the occasional exception to the "keep the rookie quarterback on the bench a couple of years" rule usually is the big school graduate—a Jim Plunkett from Stanford, or a Bert Jones from L.S.U

Our contention is that there is no built-in difference between the ultimate potential of the small college quarterback (Harris, Jaworski) and that of the big school grad (Plunkett, Jones). But in the initial years of pro apprenticeship, the advantage is entirely with the Plunketts and the Joneses.

Maybe by the year 2000 the whole picture will have changed. Perhaps by then the game's mental growth will have continued to the point where the smallest of colleges and even the high schools will have to play highly sophisticated football just to survive. In that case, the small school quarterback would not have to be such a slave to our pro quarterback maturity chart.

Maybe in the year 2000 there will only be two pro football teams left in the United States, and maybe the Superdome will be used by that time only for a once-a-year appearance of the New York Cosmos, who must draw 80,000, regardless of the weather, just to pay soccer star Pele's $82,350 dollar a game salary. So, where would Super Bowl XXXIV be played?

"MAYBE SB XXXIV WILL BE DIFFERENT"

12
20 20

SUPER SUNDAY XXXIV

IN THE YEAR 2000, COMMISSIONER GARVEY HAS EFFECTED PRO FOOTBALL'S TURNABOUT OF THE CENTURY

BY JERRY GREEN

Good afternoon sports fans on earth and in orbit. This is Nelson Lindsay, and today is the day we all have been waiting for. It is Super Sunday, the day of Super Bowl XXXIV. We are speaking to you from high atop the brand-spanking new Peoples' Stadium in Tanzania. For the first time since its inception, the Super Bowl has come to a warm-climate site in Africa. In the background now, we can see Mount Kilimanjaro. It is a splendid view, snow ringing the mountaintop.

Kickoff is 90 minutes away now and we'll be into our pre-game show shortly. But first let me introduce our broadcast crew, then we'll have a brief commercial message. Jane Nightingale, our femme media marvel, is here and this marks the 12th Super Bowl telecast for Ms. Nightingale. Jane previously did spots with Bette Furness and joined our team after extensive training by Billie Jean King in libertarian disruption. She's a sweet gal . . . uh, *person!* By the way, she's a stunning 100, 68, 94.

Only kidding, Janie.

Also in our crew is Joe Willie Namath himself. Joe joined us three years ago in a backup role when Howard Cosell suffered accidental lockjaw on the word "obfuscation."

Dick Butkus is back to lend his expertise in analyzing the defense, and we'll try to keep him and Joe Willie from spatting again today.

And now this brief message from our sponsor, Kangaroo Products of Australia, Limited.

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Well, here we are back, viewers, Nelson Lindsay in the booth with Jane, Joe and Dick at the site of Super Bowl XXXIV.

On this January 15th in the year 2000, Worldwide Network would like to welcome a new affiliate. For the first time, the Super Bowl telecast is being beamed to earthling colonists on Mars. It is a grand technological breakthrough and we are delighted to transmit our telecast to you via deep space relay.

And now to start our pre-game show, some background about the competing teams.

The Kuwait Sheikhs are making their initial appearance in the Super Bowl series. It was once said by a sage of the broadcast booth that sports are a microcosm of our times. The Kuwait Sheikhs verify that statement, for they are symbolic of our life and time. They are relatively new to the League, an expansion club. They fit in splendidly after the old East Coast Jets (originally the New York Jets) were forced to suspend operations for economic reasons.

It seems like a drop in the bucket now, but the Sheikhs joined the League for the mere franchise price of $250 million and 15 million barrels of crude petroleum. Only three years ago they finished with the poorest record in the Desert Conference of the 20-team League. South Yemen represented their lone victory. Their record in '98 was hardly better, but this year, with their new coach, they became awesome and we knew they would be a factor early in the season. In their second game they upset the Bolivia Silverdiggers by a field goal. This triumph in transoceanic play showed the Sheikhs were for real. After all, Bolivia was the world champion, winners of Super Bowl XXXIII last year in Tierra del Fuego.

From there the Sheikhs moved onward, defeating Saudi Arabia, Calcutta, Baghdad and through the season to a 9-1 record. It was a dramatic reversal of their 1997 season. Today, on Super Sunday in the year 2000, we have this taped interview with Joe Willie and Ibn Muhammad, coach of the year for the Sheikhs.

Hi fans, this is Joe Willie Namath and we're standing in the Super Bowl training camp of the Sheikhs with Coach Ibn Muhammed, who until the opening of this season had been with the successful Dar es Salaam Diamonds, Tanzania's thrice Mineral Division champions of the Desert Conference. Tell me coach, do you think the competition in the Sheikhs' Petroleum Division is as stiff as that in the Diamonds' Mineral Division, now that you've been inside both?

Yes, Joe, but now that we've shown the Petro Division how to do it, I believe next year it will dominate.

Yea, Coach, the Sheikhs' rise has been absolutely fantastic. How did you do it so quickly, suh?

Well, Joe, expansion teams have to gamble, you know that! You once went through the same sort of thing yourself. What we did was simple. After SB XXXIII last year I was hired by the Sheikhs and upon evaluating the situation I came to the conclusion that the Sheikhs weren't making the best use of the Garvey Rule. The Emir who owns our club doesn't especially like that rule, but he wanted a winner. So we went out to buy ourselves the best. We don't have a single player we had last season. We have the best team that petro-dollars can buy. Like the Silverdiggers, we did it by using the Garvey Rule. After all, $45 million and his own harem isn't too much to pay for a first-rate quarterback. You know that, Joe!

Right you are, Coach! It sure seems I was born 25 years too early. Back to you, Nelson, and our live coverage.

Thanks for that interesting interview with Coach Ibn Muhammad of the Sheikhs, Joe. And now time for a tip about Peiping Duck from our sponsor, the Shanghai Chopsticks & Noodle Company—and after that, I, Nelson Lindsay, will return to tell you about the Sheikhs' rivals here in Super Bowl XXXIV.

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Nelson Lindsay back, football fans, and now our scouting report on the Anchorage Pipeline. They are quite the antithesis of the Kuwait Sheikhs. The Pipeline won the Cosmos Conference championship, but they managed to place in the playoffs only as a wild-card club from their own Glacier Division. Indeed, the Pipeline lost twice to the Siberia Peoples' Team and once to the Hudson Bay (Whalers) in their own division.

It was the wily maneuvering of the Pipeline coach that was most responsible, many football experts agree, for this club reaching the Super Bowl. Coach George Allen managed to spot three times un-retired quarterback Sonny Jurgensen at just the right times throughout the season. Then there was the addition at mid-season when the Oakland Raiders traded George Blanda to Anchorage. Allen really outfoxed Al Davis on that one! Davis had felt that at 72 years of age some of the old zing had gone out of Blanda's leg. Of course, Davis is an old trickster himself and put Blanda up on waivers to see who was interested. Allen was, for Blanda fit right into the scheme of things in Anchorage. "The Future is Now," said George as

he gladly gave Davis the Pipeline's No. 1 draft choice (for the 2089 season) for Blanda.

The rest is history. Blanda's field goal with ½-second left beat the Rothschild Bottlers to win the playoff berth. His field goal with four seconds left eliminated the Melbourne Megabucks in the first playoff game. His field goal with two seconds left beat the Casablanca Crudes in the second game. Then his field goal in the fifth period of sudden death...er, sudden victory . . . beat the Tahiti Tankers for the Cosmos championship.

And that is the kind of ball game we have today.

Now, we have Jane's exclusive interview with George Allen at the Pipeline's Super Bowl encampment.

This is Jane Nightingale speaking to all you women persons and other persons out there in videoland. In a moment, as soon as he finishes his glass of milk, we'll have George Allen on our program. George . . .

This is a distraction and excuse me, I must go praise my players. There are always too many distractions here at the Super Bowl. Thank you.

And thank you, George Allen, coach of the Super Bowl hopeful Anchorage Pipeline. And this is Jane Nightingale turning you back to Nelson Lindsay.

Nelson Lindsay again folks and our Super Bowl preview will continue in a moment. But first a word from the makers of Afghanistan afghans, made from the best wool of superior sheep.

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Now the suspense mounts as we count down by the minutes to Super Bowl XXXIV. This is Nelson Lindsay back in the booth in Tanzania and the Super Bowl festivities are underway on the field. Warriors, symbolic of ancient Africa, are now on the 50-meter line reenacting history. Overhead, there is a formation of Space Shuttles. The scene is a blend of yesterday and today here on Super Sunday in the year 2000.

And it is our pleasure now to bring you our annual interview with the commissioner of pro football of the whole universe, his eminence, Commissioner Garvey.

Welcome to the booth here in Tanzania, Commissioner.

What do you mean by that, Nelson?

Err . . . oh nothing, Commissioner. Let's go back and trace some Super Bowl history. Now, you became commissioner back in 1977 after the end of the two-year players' uprising. To reconstruct, you succeeded Pete Rozelle in power after your forces laid siege to his Park Avenue tower for three weeks.

That was about the way it worked, yes, Nelson. The players had to control their own destinies. Imagine the gall of the owners, those scurrilous capitalists, those crass, avaricious dogs. They attempted to squeeze the life's blood out of the players and the people. We had to rebel for freedom! There were curfews and you know how young men will be boys. There were fines and that was totally unfair. After all, some of these players were paid merely $125,000 for a season. You couldn't expect players to stay in shape for that kind of meager pay. And Rozelle supported all these subversions. He was conspiring to restrict the players.

And of course, Commissioner, that was just part of it. We'll continue our Super Bowl interview with the Pro Football Commissioner right after this time out for Welcome Wagon Horsecarts, manufactured back there in the good ol' U.S.A.

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Back in the shadows of Mount Kili-

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DENNIS ELLEFSON

manjaro on this lovely day, this is Nelson Lindsay in the Super Bowl XXXIV television booth. Overhead you see a shot from the Wheelie blimp as it circles above the magnificent 5000-seat Peoples' Stadium. We were talking to the commissioner—and Commissioner we were into the players' uprising which revolutionized this planet-wide game of pro football.

Well, Nelson, the rescinding of the Rozelle Rule was the major step forward in the evolution of our game. It was an evil rule and Rozelle was a terrible villain. It was definitely advantageous to the owners. The Garvey Rule is definitely better. Each year the players are given total freedom to renegotiate with whatever team they please. It was a glorious goal and we achieved it, Nelson.

Of course, Commissioner, some of the owners soon did go bankrupt and . . . .

The swine, Nelson. Certainly most had to sell their teams but many of the players were able to buy their franchises at cut-rate prices. This was ideal . . . until, of course, the player-owners themselves started acting like owners. Imagine, they wanted to make profits! Said this was their inalienable right since they had made investments! We had to purge ourselves of these new ingrates. But that's football and I as commissioner ruled with a powerful hand. But not like that dictator Rozelle, of course.

Of course, Commissioner. We now have a film clip from the memorable court case that freed the players. Roll it . . . .

We are in the courtroom on this day of liberation in 1976—and this is an excerpt from the trial of the National Football League vs. the Players. A famous player of the day is on the witness stand and the judge is questioning him:

"Young man, you claim you are being kept in bondage, that your owner is restricting you from acquiring gainful employment with a team in California. Is that correct?"

"That is correct, Your Honor. I was drafted and had no choice when I left college as did my fellow students on my campus. I was bound to this owner."

"And son, this slavemaster, did he pay you living wages?"

"Well, Your Honor, not really."

"What were your wages?"

"Your Honor, he signed me for a bonus of $40,000, which looked good to a college boy. But then I realized—at least Mr. Garvey told me—that $115,000 a season was not enough for 14 games. So when my contract expired, I wanted to move to a team in California. I couldn't do it because of this Rozelle Rule. I was a free agent, but I wasn't free."

"How terrible! I believe that to be illegal. Now we have many other cases on our docket from pro football. I also hereby declare the college draft to be illegal and null and void! Next case . . . ."

And that was a scene from that historic day when the athletes of the world were emancipated. Their shackles were broken.

And so Commissioner, we've seen graphically the courtroom case which made the players free persons.

Yes, Nelson, my ascension to the Commissioner's office was the next logical step. It took time, but we progressed, and we've gone from there to here!

First, of course, in the late '70s there was chaos as you older fans might remember. We'll get into our flashback into history with the Pro Football Commissioner in exactly 90 seconds . . . right after this message from Quadruple-Edge Blades. They shave you as cool as Greenland.

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This is Nelson Lindsay again from Tanzania on Super Sunday and now Commissioner, do you recall Super Sunday 1977? I surely do.

Well, the players' uprising had been won!!?? Oh yes, Nelson, that's the year the first rash of bankruptcies hit us. Owners were going bankrupt and properties were for sale throughout the League.

Right, Commissioner. The other network had the Super Bowl that year and I, like millions of other fans, went into my living room to watch the Super Bowl in splendid color. I'll never forget my reaction as my set warmed up and I expected to see the white lines across the brilliant green Astro Turf. But it wasn't there . . . just test patterns showing on millions of television screens on Super Sunday. There was just this little message: This Space For Sale. Commissioner, you brought it back.

Nelson, the credit goes to the players. Pro football went from the courtroom to the inner sanctum. The owners, those sly devils, told us they no longer could make profits because the system had been invalidated by our uprising and our suits. We struggled and the issue moved from the inner sanctums to the locker rooms. The players chipped in and bought the clubs. They were now the employers and the employees. This was Utopia! I, as their commissioner, counseled them.

They were free to move and most did under the terms of the Garvey Rule. For example, Nelson, that is how the Sheikhs won this trip to the Super Bowl. But something happened!!?? The new owners, the players, turned against me because they were now capitalists. They were losing money and they couldn't understand how football owners could lose money. It must have been the inflation-recession of the times, because the Garvey Rule is quite workable for pro football. Look at the Sheikhs . . . .

Uh yes, Commissioner, that must have been when the second wave of bankruptcies hit pro football. Is that when you solicited the help of the world's 25 wealthiest men?

Sportsmen, Nelson! Yes, Nelson, sportsmen had to be solicited from around the world. Men with money. They bought the teams from the players . . . but only after they swore allegiance to the Garvey Rule. These men were from diverse backgrounds and had no common interests . . . other than cutting each others' throats. We had the kind of owners we needed and football moved upward. Our new owners—colleagues we call them—took the only logical steps. They raised ticket prices. The public was getting too much for too little. We raised the cost for television time, too. The advertisers pass their costs along to the consumers anyway. It worked wonderfully, until . . . .

Yes, Commissioner, until the third wave of bankruptcies hit in the '80s.

I tell you, Nelson, 12 of those owners must have deliberately falsified their affidavits. No matter now, of course, we have 20 very stable teams and the advent of parimutuel gambling in all the stadiums and in off-stadium gambling houses was our most important step. We made millions through the gambling on games in the mid-'80s. There was a transfusion of money. Why, betting has become the cornerstone of pro football. It's become a beautiful business and we retained all the veto power. Now I don't think $350 is too much to pay for a Super Bowl seat here in Tanzania today. After all, the Security Circuit Theatres are charging $150 a ticket. Of course they do time phase it so the commercials don't interrupt any of the action. So Nelson, in essence, the evolution of our game went from the courtroom to the inner sanctum to the locker room to the gambling den. It was a simple progression and today the game flourishes with teams all over the world.

But, Commissioner, is it not unfortunate that merely two teams remain in the United States, where it all started 80 years ago?

Yes, Nelson, the dissolution of teams in the U.S. was unfortunate. The Oakland Raiders, of course, had the resources to remain intact. I credit Al Davis for great feats of economic tightrope walking when things were so

terrible back in the '70s and again in the '80s. We altered the waiver rules almost immediately after the conclusion of the uprising in the late '70s. I guess Davis had never abided by those feudal rules anyway, that's how he came out okay.

The waiver rules, Commissioner?

What we did, Nelson, was to stop announcing the names of players who were cut. Too embarrassing for them. Al Davis never announced any cuts anyway. Which was what surprised me so much when he thought he was slick by leaking the name of George Blanda just this season. I suspect he never cut anybody before anyway. Thus, he had so many players that he was able to keep his team solvent despite the Garvey Rule. Sadly, the other teams were forced to go kaput because of sorry management. You recall, Nelson, how the Rams, the Giants, the Lions, the Dolphins and I forget how many others, yes, the Cowboys, all merged. They united to become the Anchorage Pipeline, who are right here in Super Bowl XXXIV. I see they're on the board as three-point favorites over the Sheikhs.

Splendid, Commissioner—and in just half an hour we'll have the kickoff, the Kuwait Sheikhs versus the Anchorage Pipeline. Now a word for all gourmets from Parisian Crepes Suzettes.

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Greetings fans, this is Nelson Lindsay from the Super Bowl. The teams are on the field. The Sheikhs arrived in a fleet of Cadillacs just minutes ago. George Allen has had his Pipeline sequestered here for two hours to avoid distractions.

Right now, we're going to switch to our femme on the field, Jane Nightingale. Jane, how do the two teams look to you?

Thanks Nelson. A few minutes ago I visited the two locker rooms. As usual, George Allen started yelling about distractions. I like the Sheikhs today, Nelson! They welcomed me into their locker room with open arms. And well, I was in a tent with their star quarterback. I decided to skip the commissioner's annual Dutch treat party this one time because I'm allergic to snow. And a moonlight ride to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro just didn't turn me on. You know that cute quarterback invited me to join his harem. It was quite a unique way to spend the night before a Super Bowl....

Are you kiddin' Janie? This is Joe Willie and let me tell you all about Super Bowl III....

You're just a dirty old man now, Joey!... anyway fans, take it from Jane Nightingale at field level, this will be the Sheikhs' day. In fact, just before I came on the air I hit the parimutuel windows here at Peoples' Stadium and put a little wager on my favorite team. There were quite a few heavy plungers at the windows. Tell the Commissioner his plan to enrich the coffers of football is working well. That's about it from down here at field level fans... gee I hope the camera person caught that! The Sheikhs' quarterback just winked at me. Back to you in the booth, Nelson.

Thank you Jane. Yes, we had it on split screen... now before we get to our experts' analysis, a brief message from Nippon Brew.

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It's just a few minutes away now fans wherever you are. I sure hope you viewers on Mars will like this live telecast. And speaking about colonists, word from the Commissioner is that the huge Lunar colony could be involved in the expansion by 2050. He tells me the team will be known as the Lunatics.

For those of you who have tuned in late, this is Nelson Lindsay speaking from the site of Super Bowl XXXIV and here is Dick Butkus to analyze the defenses of the Sheikhs and the Pipeline.

Grrrr, Nelson, that Sonny Jurgensen down there sure looks appetizing today. I think he'll be vulnerable to the Sheikhs' blitz. He'll be looking for an oasis, hah, hah. Now I don't know about the Pipeline. I played with some of those guys and I'll let the folks in on a little secret, Nelson. George Allen approached me before this very season and asked me if I was free from George Halas. He wanted me to play middle linebacker for the Pipeline. So surely, Nelson, there have to be some weaknesses in the Pipeline's defense.

And now to Joe Willie Namath for a word about the offenses.

Well, Nelson, we know that the Sheikhs have the momentum and that Janie has inspired them. That's important. But I still like the Pipeline because I think George Blanda has one more winning field goal in his crusty old body. Incidentally, George Allen also wanted me to join him for this season. He kept telling me, "The future is now!" I had to tell him no thanks. The future's already been.

Thank you both Joe Namath and Dick Butkus. It will be a splendid tilt. In a moment we'll have the kickoff to Super Bowl XXXIV from here in Peoples' Stadium, Tanzania. But first this quick message from our sponsor, Dixie Grits.

"SB XXXIV'S A MYTH; SB IX'S FOR REAL"

Jerry Green's story on Super Bowl XXXIV is intended to be a fantasy extension of some of the trends of our times, in and out of football. It is a story designed to entertain and not to inform, for it is impossible to write a factual story based on a future which, in contrast to George Allen's promise for success, is not yet "now."

The best one can do with the future is to attempt to relate it to the trends involved as we have come from the past to the present.

Pro football's trends today seem to include more and more confrontations at the mass level between the owners and the players. Beginning in 1956 when Norm Van Brocklin, Kyle Rote and company originally formed an association of NFL players, there have been organized groups of NFL athletes attempting to seek an improved status for themselves. Strangely, in professional football, the salaries in recent years have exceeded the norms for men of their training and experience, leaving basic wages out of most labor-management negotiations. The players, not wanting to sacrifice the tremendous advantage they now have in playing one league against another for initial financial contracts, never have proposed contracts based on wage scales.

More than one owner has indicated that he would prefer a strict union wage-hour contract, based on so much minimum, so much after one year, so much after two years, and so on. It would be far easier to project the payroll overhead in planning the financial year. (Strange situation: The owners might be in favor of a union wage-scale contract, with the employees against it.)

Basically, the trend in this country (and, indeed, perhaps the world) may be moving away from the very path the players' organizers seem to be taking. For too many centuries, differences of opinion and differences in philosophy brought about confrontations in which either or both sides insisted on offering intimidation, threats, violence and rebellion. It was as if the conference table was only to articulate demands, not to melt barriers with reason and understanding. The result was polarization. Nothing so separates opposing factions as the screaming thesis, "You are always wrong. I am always right." War, itself, is an extension of this kind of polarization.

Threats prior to negotiations are polarizing, and many of the modern unions now recognize that dealing from belligerent strength polarizes and leads to its own kind of war—strikes, which are costly to all hands.

But the trend now among many unions and among many segments of management is to recognize the human qualities of the men across the table, to realize that to receive a few words of true thoughtfulness is to create an aura of warmth. In such an atmosphere, reason has a chance. In a room hot from the sparks of belligerent point-making, much of it out of context with the issues, warmth has been superseded by damaging heat.

Religion is undergoing its most ecumenical trends in 2000 years, as those who had polarized by downgrading other denominations or other forms of worship now are seeking ways of working together to carry out their common commitments. It's a matter of working toward the center, where there is rational understanding, rather than polarizing by attempting to force one's own unbending perspective upon the equally belligerent stand taken by another.

World governmental powers still seem to pose fearful threats to each other, yet in recent years there have been increasing moves made in politics, industry and in the humanities to meet in the center with the cold war enemy, rather than to fight the uncommunicative battle from polarized positions.

Harmony at all levels may be an oversimplification when one considers the problems of the world. But in the modern building of a pro football success, harmony is the primary ingredient. The Pittsburgh Steelers, lacking in team experience, man for man not as strong as some other clubs, nevertheless are undisputedly at the top because they are a team of players, coaches and owners who do not polarize the race issues, the labor issues nor any other philosophical differences which may exist. They are a team of harmony. In the center, far from the poles, they meet, and care about each other. And they win.

"HARMONY IS THE PRIME INGREDIENT"

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

It's that old "What do you do for an encore?" time for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who barely have enough time to savor their world championship before they have to put it on the line again. After more than 40 years of coming close, also-running, and just plain losing, the Steelers finally won it all in 1974, and took the title.

Now comes the supreme task for any would-be dynasty: remaining at the pinnacle while all others shoot at you with their heaviest artillery. Only two teams, the Green Bay Packers and Miami Dolphins, have been able to withstand the onslaught in recent years. The Steelers appear capable of doing the same, but it is a long season and lots of things can happen between August and January.

Just look at last year's Steeler log, for example. Coach Chuck Noll went through three quarterbacks before he found one who worked. He wound up with a starting running back who, in training camp, was no more than a fringe player and special teams contributor. He shifted a center to guard. He wound up with two rookies playing much of the time at wide receiver spots, and another first-year man doing all the work at the key middle linebacker spot.

All of this happened on the way to the Super Bowl. Then, against Minnesota, Noll had to wait until the very last second before he knew he could use one of his defensive linemen. And during the game he inserted a pair of reserve linebackers when two stalwart regulars went out with injuries.

Nevertheless Pittsburgh survived and prospered under the direction of a man who just five years earlier had posted a dismal 1-13 record in his first year as head coach.

Noll will go after his repeat with basically the same squad he had in '74. Only defection could be L.C. Greenwood, who had played out his option and was looking around. Greenwood would be a stunning loss off the defensive line which, more than any other department, symbolized the Steelers' rise to the top of the league last year.

HEAD COACH CHUCK NOLL

Greenwood, Dwight White, Ernie Holmes and Mean Joe Greene! It was their pass-rush pressure, and, especially later in the year, their tremendous ability to cut off the running attack which sparked Pittsburgh. The sight of the golden-shoed Greenwood spiking nearly a half-dozen of Fran Tarkenton's Super Bowl tosses epitomized the dominating play of the spectacular Steeler front four.

While Pittsburgh won with defense, it is the offense which really is the better fortified unit. It has more depth than its running mate and is better prepared to face a series of injuries. So it isn't too surprising Noll went for defensive help on four of his first five draft picks.

Yet the success of the Steeler attack depends upon the success of its quarterback, who (at least entering the '75 campaign) will be Terry Bradshaw. The Louisiana Tech star regained the job at mid-season and did a creditable job down the stretch, earning the respect of his teammates who had been somewhat dubious of Bradshaw's ability to direct a winning football team.

If Bradshaw continues to mature, and if the injury jinx stays away from the defense, Pittsburgh indeed could repeat in 1975. It is a young, strong, talented squad which last year demonstrated the thirst for victory needed for the ultimate success. That thirst, however, sometimes is quenched by a drink from the fountain of success, another reason why it's harder to stay on top than to get there in the first place.

No. 59—Jack Ham

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Joe Gilliam, who had a sensational pre-season, was the regular quarterback at the start of the year and had the club at 4-1-1 near mid-season. But Noll wanted a little more balance to his attack. Gilliam was throwing too much, and not relying

No. 12—Terry Bradshaw

No. 20—Rocky Bleier

enough on his runners. After a brief stop-off at Terry Hanratty, the coach reinserted Bradshaw as his No. 1 man with pleasing results. While his completion average (45.3, same as Gilliam's) wasn't overwhelming, Bradshaw added 224 yards on the ground and coordinated all aspects of the Pittsburgh attack into a strong unit. His play in the post-season was near perfect. The Steelers hope this is a sign the 26-year-old Bradshaw finally has reached the potential he possessed as the No. 1 selection in the 1970 draft.

Running backs—Franco Harris, the Super Bowl MVP, and Rocky Bleier, who had spent most of his career running down under kicks, provided a talented tandem of runners for Bradshaw during the second half of the season. Harris displayed his '72 rookie form and wound up with 1006 yards, plus a record 158 in Super Bowl IX. His 230-pound frame bulled over some tacklers and outran others. Bleier, no better than the No. 5 back at the start of the year, chipped in with 373 yards after working his way into the lineup at mid-season. In addition, his blocking for Harris was sensational. Behind the starters are three others who have been regulars at times—Steve Davis, who opened the first four games last year; Preston Pearson, who had the best average per gain (4.5) of all Steeler backs; and Frenchy Fuqua, the onetime team running star hampered by injuries in recent years.

Receivers—Lynn Swann, as expected, and John Stallworth, somewhat as a surprise, saw a lot of action at the outside spots as the Steelers came down the stretch. The two rookies wound up splitting the time with veterans Frank Lewis and Ron Shanklin, and all four are back this year to provide Noll with the most pleasant of problems. Lewis led the team with 30 catches, while Shanklin had 19, Stallworth 16 and Swann 11. But the No. 1 draft pick from USC has perhaps the most potential of the group and was spectacular in the post-season. He also proved an exciting punt returner. Reggie Garrett, another rookie, was a special teams ace last year. There isn't much room for new faces, although Wyoming's Archie Gray and Mississippi Valley's Bob Gaddis rate inspection. The tight end situation isn't as rosy, however. Larry Brown played well there late in the year after beating out John McMakin and Randy Grossman. Key challenger now is No. 3 pick Walter White of Maryland, who caught 61 passes and scored nine TDs in two years' service as a Terrapin regular.

Offensive line—It was just a matter of getting the right people in the right places. By the end of the year, the unit of tackles Jon Kolb and Gordon Gravelle, guards Jim Clack and Gerry Mullins, and center Ray Mansfield were precise and sometimes awesome. Kolb began to gain all-star recognition. Gravelle came back from knee problems to solve a woe on the right side. Clack was shifted from center and Mullins, also a backup tackle, settled at guard. Mansfield just kept rolling along (168 straight games). Sam Davis, a longtime regular at guard, and Mike Webster, who spelled the 34-year-old Mansfield at times last year, are top reserves. And there is plenty of young help in second-year men Rick Druschel and David Reavis and draftees Marv Crenshaw of Nebraska, Wayne Mattingly of Colorado and Eugene Clark of UCLA.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
45	Allen, Jim	CB	6-2	194	23	UCLA	2
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	5-11	210	29	Notre Dame	7
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3	205	27	Southern	7
38	Bradley, Ed	LB	6-2	239	25	Wake Forest	3
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	218	26	Louisiana Tech	6
87	Brown, Larry	TE	6-4	229	26	Kansas	5
50	Clack, Jim	G-C	6-3	250	27	Wake Forest	5
22	Conn, Dick	S	6-0	185	24	Georgia	2
77	Davis, Charlie	DT	6-1	265	23	Texas Christian	2
53	Davis, Henry	LB	6-3	235	32	Grambling	7
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	31	Allen	9
35	Davis, Steve	RB	6-1	218	25	Delaware State	4
73	Druschel, Rick	T-G	6-2	248	23	North Carolina State	2
27	Edwards, Glen	S	6-0	185	28	Florida A&M	5
33	Fuqua, John	RB	5-11	195	28	Morgan State	7
64	Furness, Steve	DT-DE	6-4	255	24	Rhode Island	4
86	Garrett, Reggie	WR	6-1	172	23	Eastern Michigan	2
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5-10	185	27	New Mexico State	7
17	Gilliam, Joe	QB	6-2	187	24	Tennessee State	4
71	Gravelle, Gordon	T	6-5	250	26	Brigham Young	4
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	275	28	North Texas State	7
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6-6	245	28	Arkansas AM&N	7
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	215	21	Temple	2
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	26	Penn State	5
5	Hanratty, Terry	QB	6-1	210	27	Notre Dame	7
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	230	25	Penn State	4
46	Harrison, Reggie	RB	5-11	215	25	Cincinnati	2
63	Holmes, Ernie	DT	6-3	260	27	Texas Southern	4
54	Kellum, Marv	LB	6-2	225	23	Wichita State	2
55	Kolb, Jon	T	6-3	262	28	Oklahoma State	7
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6-4	215	23	Kent State	2
43	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	28	Grambling	5
56	Mansfield, Ray	C	6-3	260	34	Washington	13
89	McMakin, John	TE	6-3	232	24	Clemson	4
72	Mullins, Gerry	G-T	6-3	244	26	Southern California	5
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6-1	205	30	Illinois	9
	Pettus, Larry	T	6-4	228	24	Tennessee State	1
74	Reavis, Dave	T	6-5	250	25	Arkansas	2
34	Russell, Andy	LB	6-2	225	33	Missouri	11
25	Shanklin, Ron	WR	6-1	190	27	North Texas State	6
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11	190	23	South Carolina State	2
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	183	23	Alabama A&M	2
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	5-10	178	23	Southern California	2
24	Thomas, J.T.	CB	6-2	196	24	Florida State	3
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	212	23	California	3
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6-1	210	26	Western Illinois	5
39	Walden, Bobby	P	6-0	190	37	Georgia	12
52	Webster, Mike	C-G	6-1	232	23	Wisconsin	2
78	White, Dwight	DE	6-4	255	26	East Texas State	5
62	Wolf, Jim	DE	6-2	230	23	Prairie View	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Brown, Dave	26	DB	Michigan
2.	Barber, Robert	51	DE	Grambling
3.	White, Walter	78	TE	Maryland
4.	Evans, Harold	104	LB	Houston
5.	Sexton, Brent	130	DB	Elon
6.	Crenshaw, Marvin	156	T	Nebraska
7.	Mattingly, Wayne	182	T	Colorado
8.	Kropp, Tom from Kansas City	190	LB	Kearney State
	Humphrey, Al	208	DE	Tulsa
9.	Clark, Eugene from New England	222	G	UCLA
	Reimer, Bruce	234	RB	North Dakota State
10.	Heyer, Kirt from New England	247	DT	Kearney State
	Gray, Archie	260	WR	Wyoming
11.	Little, Randy	286	TE	West Liberty
12.	Murphy, Greg	312	DE	Penn State
13.	Gaddis, Robert	337	WR	Mississippi Valley
14.	Collier, Mike	364	RB	Morgan State
15.	Thatcher, James from Kansas City	371	WR	Langston
	Smith, Marty	390	DT	Louisville
16.	Bassler, Miller	415	TE	Houston
17.	Hegener, Stan	442	G	Nebraska

COACHES:

CHUCK NOLL, Bud Carson, Dick Hoak, George Perles, Dan Radakovich, Lou Riecke, Lionel Taylor, Paul Uram, Woody Widenhofer.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

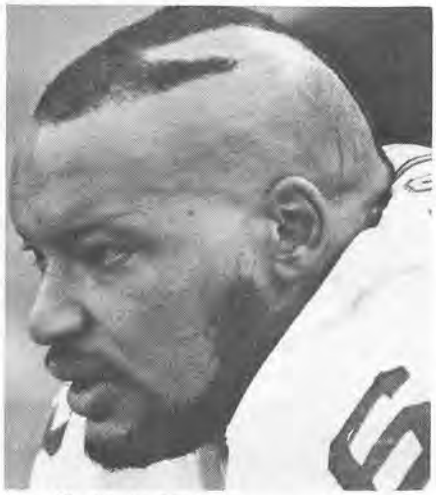
DEFENSE

Front four—Holding any two teams to 29 and 17 rushing yards, respectively, in two consecutive NFL games is quite an accomplishment. But when those teams are Oakland and Minnesota, and the games are the AFC championship and Super Bowl, it is almost an impossible feat. Yet the Steelers, using Mean Joe over center in a different set devised by coach George Perles, completely stopped the running game in the final two contests. In addition, the starting foursome combined for 40 of the team's 52 sacks with Holmes leading with 11½ and Greenwood adding 11. Still the key is Greene, the 275-pound All-Pro who attracts so much blocking attention, especially when he's head-on the center, he makes it easier for the other three. If Greenwood does leave, young Steve Furness, the top reserve at all spots, will take over. Rookie Bob Barber, a No. 2 draft pick from Grambling, has possibilities at defensive end, too. Veterans Jim Wolf and Charlie Davis, plus rookie Greg Murphy of Penn State, round out the main defense personnel.

Linebackers—Andy Russell bounced back from an off-season to play all-star ball. Jack Ham just continued along as the absolute best outside linebacker in professional football. In between, rookie Jack Lambert replaced the injured Henry Davis and by year's end looked as though he had been a Steeler for years. The rawboned Lambert has the size (6-5, 218), speed, and most of all the wallop to be an All-Pro in time. Davis is back as a reserve as are Ed Bradley and Loren Toews, both of whom played a lot in the second half of Super Bowl IX. Another reserve, Marv Kellum, is exceptional on special teams while Harold Evans of Houston, the No. 4 draft pick, enters the picture after a solid college career.

Secondary—Aided by a brutal pass rush and abetted by extremely active linebackers, the Steeler secondary held the opposing passers to the lowest completion percentage (43.4) in the NFL. Mel Blount and J.T. Thomas did the jobs at the corners, although first-round pick Dave Brown, a safety at Michigan, is being programmed as a cornerback by the Steelers. Safeties Glen Edwards and Mike Wagner are typical Steeler defenders: quick, smart, and most of all, hitters. Edwards is most often the big-play man, as he demonstrated in the Super Bowl when he jarred the ball loose from John Gilliam on a key first-half play. Jimmy Allen, Donnie Shell and Dick Conn, all rookies last year, provide depth. Room must be made for Brown, everybody's All-American at Michigan, and maybe for Brent Sexton of Elon, another Steeler cornerback hopeful.

Special teams—Veteran kickers Roy Gerela and Bobby Walden adapted well to the rules changes last year. So while statistics may have fallen off, overall performance did not suffer. Gerela's point total dropped to 93, but he was accurate on 20 of 29 field goal attempts. Walden's average shrank to 39 yards per try, but nearly half of his punts were not returned by the opposition. Swann averaged 14.1 per punt return and has a string of 37 consecutive runbacks without a fair catch. Edwards (on punts) and Steve Davis, Pearson and Blount (on kickoffs) give the Steelers savvy in those areas. Rookies Brown (three punt-return TDs in college), Bruce Reimer of North Dakota State, and Gray bring interesting credentials with them to the Steeler special squads.



No. 63—Ernie Holmes

No. 75—Joe Greene

No. 72—Gerry Mullins No. 32—Franco Harris No. 12—Terry Bradshaw

1974 Season Results

PITTSBURGH (10-3-1)

30	*Baltimore	0
35	Denver	35
0	*Oakland	17
13	Houston	7
34	Kansas City	24
20	*Cleveland	16
24	*Atlanta	17
27	*Philadelphia	0
10	Cincinnati	17
26	Cleveland	16
28	New Orleans	7
10	*Houston	13
21	New England	17
27	*Cincinnati	3

* DENOTES HOME GAME

CINCINNATI BENGALS

HEAD COACH PAUL BROWN

Ever experience one of those days when you should have stayed in bed? In 1974 Paul Brown went through an entire season exactly like that.

With his Bengals primed for a run at the championship, Brown woke up to find linebacker Bill Bergey had signed with the World Football League. After an unsuccessful attempt to regain his services, the angered Brown traded Bergey to Philadelphia. And soon after that, Bergey announced he was free of his WFL pact.

So while Bergey clobbered people in the NFC, Brown went through a series of would-be replacements, none of whom stayed healthy to do the job. And linebacking wasn't the only spot decimated by injuries. The jinx did a pretty good job on the Bengal running backs, too, knocking both Boobie Clark and Essex Johnson out of action. That pair had totaled nearly 2000 yards between them in 1973.

Instead of the anticipated shot at the Super Bowl, or at least an AFC championship, the Bengals limped in at 7-7. It could have been much worse, too, if Ken Anderson hadn't taken the opportunity to blossom into everything Paul Brown had predicted of him—and more.

Anderson, in his fourth year out of Augustana College, led the NFC in passing and set 10 Cincinnati aerial marks in doing so. If there was any reason for Brown to get out of bed last season, it was to watch Anderson perform.

But 1975 is a new day, and the 67-year-old Brown awakens with one hope—no more injuries! "I would like to go to training camp with a healthy group of players and keep it that way," he said. "Injuries wrecked us last year. We were hit in key spots."

In addition to Clark and Essex Johnson, linebacker Jim LeClair, counted on to replace Bergey, stellar center Bob Johnson and offensive tackle Vern Holland, a solid, underrated performer, missed parts of the year because of injuries. Anderson's passing kept the offense above water, but defensively the Bengals were run upon easily. There was no one in the middle to clog things up.

Brown looked to the draft to solve that problem. His first choice, a bit of a surprise, was Florida's Glenn Cameron, who spent his college career in the shadow of more publicized teammate Ralph Ortega. Cameron, however, has the size, speed and strength to play the middle. "He has a chance to be better than Bergey," boasted Pete Brown, the Bengals' player personnel director.

Cameron and LeClair will battle in the middle. The loser may well wind up with an outside spot. Clark, the 1973 rookie of the year, and the explosive Johnson return to hypo the running attack. And Anderson should continue to get better and better at quarterback.

Paul Brown, however, finds another major obstacle in his way to a championship—the Pittsburgh Steelers. It was nightmarish to watch them destroy opponents in the playoffs. And Cincy must compete in the same division with the defending champs.

"It will be a difficult proposition to overtake the Steelers," Paul Brown admits. "They are young and solid in all phases of the game." Yep, some years it doesn't pay to get out of bed!

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Anderson's 1974 stat line reads like this: 213 completions, an amazing 65 percent completion average, 2667 yards, 18 touchdowns and only 10 interceptions. He averaged better than eight yards everytime he

No. 14—Ken Anderson

No. 35—Boobie Clark

CINCINNATI BENGALS

threw the ball, and almost 13 yards per completion. In addition, the 6-2, 211-pound Anderson ran for 314 yards and a 7.3 average. Only thing left for Brown is to find a capable backup for his talented passer. Wayne Clark held the post last year, but he faces a challenge from Brigham Young's Gary Sheide, a drop-back passer in the pro mold. Sheide completed 60 percent of his tosses last year for 2174 yards, 23 TDs, and just 13 interceptions. A dislocated shoulder in the Fiesta Bowl kept him from being drafted any higher than the third round. Another quarterback prospect is Tom Shuman of Penn State, picked on the sixth round of the draft.

Running backs—Boobie Clark (988 yards as a rookie) gained just 312 last year while Johnson (997 in '73) added just 44 on 19 carries. When healthy the two form a perfect combo, the 6-2, 245-pound Clark handling the inside stuff and the nifty Johnson moving to the outside. In their absence, several other young backs had a chance to do some ball carrying. Most impressive were Charlie Davis, a rookie last year who averaged 5.2 per carry and led the club with 375 yards, and Lenvil Elliott, who gained 345 yards and sported a 5.1 norm. Doug Dressler and big Ed Williams, a late-season surprise, also return. Top rookie hope is Stan Fritts of North Carolina State, a workhorse plugger who scored 256 points in his college career.

Receivers—Issac Curtis teams with Anderson to form the most explosive battery in pro ball today. One out of every three of Curtis' 30 receptions went for TDs last year, and the 195-pound sprinter averaged 21 yards per reception. Chip Myers, who led the club with 32 catches, and Charlie Joiner, another burner, shared the other outside slot. Top threats this year are John McDaniel, a swift second-year man who excelled on special teams as a rookie, and intriguing first-year man Pat McInally of Harvard. McInally, a 6-6, 210-pound Rhodes Scholar candidate, caught 46 passes last year, eight for TDs, and also punts and placekicks. Tight end is well manned by Bob Trumpy, Bruce Coslet and Al Chandler, with rookies Jeff West of Cincinnati and vicious-blocking Jack Novak of Wisconsin joining the team. West is also a top-flight punter.

Offensive line—Bob Johnson (broken ankle) and Holland (broken leg) should be healed for 1975 and ready to reassume their spots. Johnson in particular was missed for the final four games since he is not only a fine center, but also the team leader. Holland will team with either Rufus Mayes or Stan Walters at the tackles, with Howard Fest and messengers John Shinners and Pat Matson as the guards. There is depth, too, with Dave Lapham, Richard Hicks and blue-chip rookie Al Krevis of Boston College. Krevis, a 6-5, 265-pound tackle, is particularly adept at pass blocking, and the Bengals are sky-high on him.

DEFENSE

Front four—This had been one of the least of Brown's headaches until the spring when tackle Mike Reid announced his retirement. If the All-Pro, piano-playing Reid sticks to his plans, a spot will open up for Bill Kollar, last year's No. 1 draft choice who

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-2	211	26	Augustana	5
58	Beauchamp, Al	LB	6-2	232	31	Southern	8
82	Berry, Royce	DE	6-3	250	29	Houston	7
29	Blackwood, Lyle	S	6-0	191	24	Texas Christian	3
70	Carpenter, Ron	DT	6-4	261	27	North Carolina State	6
37	Casanova, Tom	S	6-2	195	25	Louisiana State	4
42	Clark, Charles	RB	6-2	245	24	Bethune-Cookman	3
11	Clark, Wayne	QB	6-3	203	28	U. S. International	5
88	Coslet, Bruce	TE	6-3	227	28	Pacific	7
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	193	24	San Diego State	3
26	Davis, Charlie	RB	5-11	200	23	Colorado	2
44	Dressler, Doug	RB	6-2	228	27	Chico State	6
36	Elliott, Lenvil	RB	6-0	205	24	Northeast Missouri	3
72	Fest, Howard	T	6-6	256	29	Texas	8
41	Green, Dave	P	5-11	208	25	Ohio U.	3
59	Hicks, Richard	C	6-4	245	24	Humboldt State	1
76	Holland, Vernon	T	6-6	268	27	Tennessee State	5
23	Jackson, Bernard	CB	6-0	178	25	Washington State	4
54	Johnson, Bob	C	6-5	262	28	Tennessee	8
19	Johnson, Essex	RB	5-9	201	28	Grambling	8
80	Johnson, Ken	DE	6-6	256	28	Indiana	5
18	Joiner, Charlie	WR	5-11	188	27	Grambling	7
57	Jolitz, Evan	LB	6-2	225	23	Cincinnati	2
32	Jones, Bob	S	6-1	194	24	Virginia Union	3
56	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2	229	25	Northern Michigan	4
68	Kollar, Bill	DT	6-3	255	22	Montana State	2
62	Lapham, Dave	T	6-3	255	23	Syracuse	2
55	LeClair, Jim	LB	6-2	235	25	North Dakota	4
77	Maddox, Bob	DE	6-5	232	24	Frostburg State	2
73	Matson, Pat	G	6-1	245	31	Oregon	10
71	Mayes, Rufus	T	6-5	258	26	Ohio State	7
86	McDaniel, John	WR	6-1	193	23	Lincoln	2
25	Myers, Chip	WR	6-6	205	30	Northwest Oklahoma	8
20	Parrish, Lemar	CB	5-11	185	27	Lincoln, Mo.	6
60	Pritchard, Ron	LB	6-1	230	28	Arizona State	7
13	Riley, Ken	CB	5-11	182	27	Florida A&M	7
22	Sawyer, Ken	S	6-0	192	23	Syracuse	2
64	Shinners, John	G	6-3	255	28	Xavier	7
84	Trumpy, Bob	TE	6-6	228	29	Utah	8
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6	262	26	Syracuse	4
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	255	26	California	4
43	Williams, Ed	RB	6-2	245	24	Langston	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Cameron, Glenn	14	LB	Florida
2.	Krevis, Al	39	T	Boston College
3.	Burley, Gary from Atlanta	55	DE	Pittsburgh
	Sheide, Gary	64	QB	Brigham Young
	Harris, Bo from Minnesota	77	LB	Louisiana State
	Fritts, Stan from Buffalo	97	RB	North Carolina State
5.	McInally, Pat	120	WR	Harvard
	West, Jeff from Dallas	122	TE-P	Cincinnati
6.	Shuman, Tom from Philadelphia	142	QB	Penn State
	Smith, Rollen	145	DB	Arkansas
7.	Devlin, Chris	170	LB	Penn State
8.	Davis, Ricky	195	DB	Alabama
9.	Dubinetz, Greg	220	G-C	Yale
	Williams, Lofell from Buffalo	227	WR	Virginia Union
10.	Felker, Rockey	245	DB	Mississippi State
11.	Cobb, Marvin	276	DB	Southern California
12.	Novak, Jack	301	TE	Wisconsin
13.	Rosenberg, Ron	326	LB	Montana
14.	Haywood, Frank	351	DT	North Carolina State
15.	Enright, Greg	376	K	Southern Oregon
16.	Tuttle, John	401	WR	Kansas State
17.	Charity, Elvin	432	DB	Yale

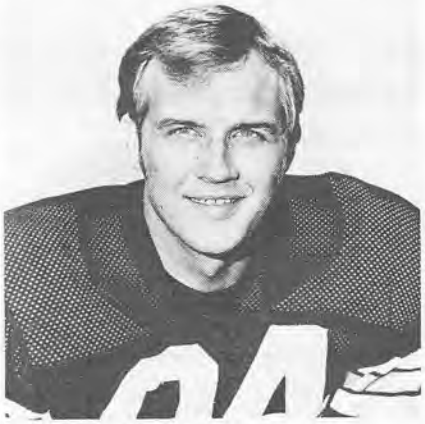
COACHES:
PAUL BROWN, Howard Brinker, Jack Donaldson, Bill Johnson, Chuck Studley, Bill Walsh, Chuck Weber, Kim Wood.

played well in spots as a rookie. Kollar would team with unsung Ron Carpenter at the tackle spots. Regular ends Sherman White and Ken Johnson are backed by onetime starter Royce Berry. Joining the group is Gary Burley, who Brown calls a "meat and potatoes" lineman. Burley, a third-round draft from Pitt, played end in college but now may be shifted to tackle. That's if Reid is serious about his retirement, of course.

Linebackers—LeClair, Tim Kearney, Ken Avery, Doug Adams. All were given a shot at Bergey's job last year. LeClair appeared to be settling into the post when he was injured and slowed for the rest of the season. He and Cameron (a 6-2, 230-pounder with 4.6 speed, strength to bench press 415 pounds and a Dick Butkus attitude) are the front runners this time. Cameron reportedly is tough on pass coverage, too, so if he doesn't make it in the middle he will get a shot at an outside job. Ron Pritchard and Al Beauchamp held those spots last year, but in addition to the middle-linebacking loser they'll face a challenge in rookie Bo Harris of LSU, drafted on the third round. Chris Devlin of Penn State and Ron Rosenberg of Montana are other draftees worth watching while free agent Brad Cousino of Miami of Ohio, middleguard on that rugged collegiate defensive unit, is a darkhorse in the middle. Kearney and Evan Jolitz are still around while Avery and Adams have been dealt to Kansas City.

Secondary—With the running game effective against the Cincinnati defense, opponents didn't go to the air quite as much against the Bengals. As a result, the Bengals finished a sparkling but somewhat deceptive fourth in NFL pass defense. Yet the team managed just nine interceptions, lowest total in the league and three less than KC's Emmitt Thomas managed by himself. Corner Ken Riley had five of the thefts while Pro Bowler Lemar Parrish didn't have a single pickoff on the other wing. Tommy Casanova played a steady-but-not-spectacular free safety while Bernard Jackson, just 6-0 and 178, was sometimes overmatched at the strong safety. Squadmen Lyle Blackwood, a starter at times last year, Bob Jones and Ken Sawyer are safety hopes, as is rookie Ricky Davis of Alabama. Rollen Smith, highly touted out of Arkansas, and Marvin Cobb of the national champion USC team, both draft picks, are cornerback candidates.

Special teams—There have been some changes made in this area as incumbents Horst Muhlmann and Dave Green both faced challenges from draft picks. Muhlmann, who was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles, failed to beat off Greg Enright of Southern Oregon, who reportedly booms 90 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone. Green, who averaged 40.9 per punt last year, is at a disadvantage in his battle with West since the rookie also can play a position. West averaged 42.6 and has an excellent "hang-time," which he attributes to a broken ankle in high school which prevents full extension of his leg. The return men, Parrish, Casanova, Blackwood, Charlie Davis and Jackson, are more than adequate players.



No. 84—Bob Trumpy

No. 54—Bob Johnson

No. 26—Charlie Davis

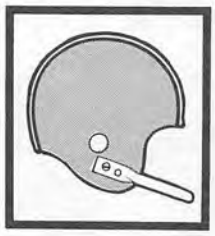
No. 85—Isaac Curtis

1974 Season Results
CINCINNATI (7-7-0)

33	*Cleveland	7
17	*San Diego	20
21	San Francisco	3
28	*Washington	17
34	Cleveland	24
27	Oakland	30
21	*Houston	34
24	Baltimore	14
17	*Pittsburgh	10
3	Houston	20
33	*Kansas City	6
3	Miami	24
19	*Detroit	23
3	Pittsburgh	27

* DENOTES HOME GAME

CLEVELAND BROWNS



HEAD COACH FORREST GREGG

Of all the new head coaches in the National Football League this year, none faces a more demanding task than Cleveland's Forrest Gregg. The former Packer All Pro steps into a situation where winning is expected by both an organization and a host of fans who have experienced just two losing seasons in 29 years of existence.

One of those sub-par seasons was last year when Cleveland suffered through its worst campaign ever, winning just four of 14. The collapse cost Nick Skorich his job, and brought Gregg, 41, into the picture as just the fourth coach in Cleveland history.

"We will be sound fundamentally," said Gregg. "Football is basically three things—blocking, tackling and running. The players will know what to do and they will execute.

"There will be a difference in attacking our opponent this year. The running game will be stressed."

Close your eyes and you can picture the late Vince Lombardi uttering those same words.

Clearly Gregg intends to use the Green Bay philosophy in rebuilding the Cleveland powerhouse. If he is to succeed, he will have to improve the club in several areas where last year it was less than a reasonable facsimile of the great Packers.

First, of course, he must retread the defense which finished a lowly 23rd in the NFL ratings last year. Then, in order to get the most out of his running game, he'll have to rejuvenate his passing attack and get Mike Phipps back on the route to the stardom predicted of him several seasons ago.

"Mike will be more on his own than he was last year," promised Gregg, indicating he has no plans to replace the former Purdue star who has been an enigma on the field for the past few seasons.

After a sparkling 1972 campaign, when he appeared ready to claim a spot as one of the top young quarterbacks in the game, Phipps has sputtered and almost come to a halt the past two years. His passing stats showed just nine touchdowns and 17 interceptions last year, with a completion percentage of just .457. That ranked him third from the bottom among AFC passing qualifiers, and left the team 23rd in overall NFC passing ratings.

The complete Cleveland collapse can't be blamed on its 27-year-old quarterback, however. Both Phipps and Brian Sipe had a tough time avoiding defensive linemen who rushed past the Browns' offensive front wall with great consistency and sacked the QBs 48 times. And the usually stingy defense often left its offense in a hole too deep to escape.

The hand-in-hand development of both units received a boost in the col-

No. 15—Mike Phipps

No. 34—Greg Pruitt

lege draft when the Browns came up with their first real pass-rushing defensive end since Bill Glass. Gregg is hopeful 6-8 Mack Mitchell, who recorded 33 sacks in his three years at the University of Houston, continues his harassments as a pro.

"If an NFL club is down, I know it's going to come back up," said Mitchell. "I think I can help the Browns do that."

Certainly the Browns qualify as "down," maybe for the first time in their existence. It certainly hasn't been the way of life at Municipal Stadium, and Gregg is hoping the change of lifestyle will be a short one.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Despite his problems, Phipps has had a winning record as a Cleveland starter, posting a 20-15-2 mark in the three seasons he has been No. 1. Things got so bad last year, however, that Skorich went with Sipe for four games and the former San Diego passer (there are so many of them) completed better than 54 percent of his passes. He threw for just one TD and had seven picked off, however. To aid Phipps, Sipe, and his two younger quarterbacks, Will Cureton and Ken Polke, Gregg hired former Browns' head man Blanton Collier as his quarterback coach. Collier certainly should be able to impart some of his vast storehouse of knowledge to the relatively inexperienced quarterback corps throughout the season.

Running backs—While nowhere near the propensity of the Jim Brown and Leroy Kelly eras, the Browns' running attack in 1974 showed signs of rebounding from a disastrous 1973 season which saw the area decimated by injuries and Kelly's sudden departure. Greg Pruitt now is the key. Although the former Oklahoma All-American vaguely resembles Kelly and doesn't look a thing like Brown, he darted his way through opposing defenses for a team-high 540 yards and a 4.3 average last year. His running mates are Hugh McKinnis, who established himself last year in his second season away from the Canadian League by picking up 519 yards, and the dependable Ken Brown, who added 458. Both could be displaced by big Billy Pritchett (230 pounds), who missed his rookie year with injuries, or veteran Bo Scott, out most of the past two years with physical woes. Top rookie hopes are the durable Henry Hynoski of Temple and Larry Poole, who could surprise after a successful career at nearby Kent State.

Receivers—Improvement was shown in this area last year, mainly on the performance of Steve Holden alone. And now, with several key additions, this looks to be one of Gregg's most potent areas. Holden, a flop as a '73 rookie, bounced back with a 30-catch, 452-yard season to begin establishing himself as an outside threat. Joining him will be former Patriot Reggie Rucker, who has been one of the more effective receivers in recent years; third-round draft pick Oscar Roan of SMU, who starred in the Hula Bowl game; and low selection Johnny McKay of USC, who just might be one of those overlooked by scouting standards but acceptable by playing standards. Former running back Billy Lefear also joins the wide receiver corps which includes backups Dave Sullivan and Tim George, and another rookie, Willie Armstead of Utah. Tight end is manned by 10-year vet Milt Morin, who caught 27 passes last year and has 270 for his career.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
69	Adams, Pete	G	6-4	260	24	Southern California	2
40	Anderson, Preston	S	6-1	183	23	Rice	2
60	Babich, Bob	LB	6-2	231	28	Miami, Ohio	6
74	Barisich, Carl	DT	6-4	255	24	Princeton	3
64	Beams, Jeff	G	6-2	245	24	Ohio U.	1
90	Bott, Gary	LB	6-6	230	24	Dana	1
23	Brooks, Clifford	CB	6-1	190	26	Tennessee State	4
28	Brown, Eddie	S	5-11	180	23	Tennessee	2
30	Brown, Ken	RB	5-10	203	29	None	6
12	Cockroft, Don	K-P	6-1	195	30	Adams State	8
16	Cureton, Will	QB	6-3	200	24	East Texas State	1
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	195	25	Michigan	4
63	Darrow, Barry	T	6-7	260	25	Montana	2
54	Deleone, Tom	C	6-2	252	25	Ohio State	4
65	Demarie, John	G	6-3	246	30	Louisiana State	9
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	254	26	Illinois	5
50	Garlington, John	LB	6-1	218	29	Louisiana State	8
10	Gartner, Chris	K	6-0	170	25	Indiana	2
99	Gay, Tom	DE	6-2	248	27	Arkansas A&M	1
82	George, Tim	WR	6-5	210	23	Carson-Newman	3
21	Green, Van	S	6-1	192	24	Shaw U.	3
59	Hall, Charles	LB	6-3	225	26	Houston	5
42	Hepburn, Lonnie	CB	5-11	180	26	Texas Southern	4
88	Holden, Steve	WR	6-0	198	24	Arizona State	3
67	Hutchison, Chuck	G	6-3	250	26	Ohio State	5
77	Ilgenfritz, Mark	DT	6-4	250	23	Vanderbilt	2
71	Johnson, Walter	DT	6-4	265	32	Cal State-Los Angeles	11
26	Lefear, Billy	WR	5-11	197	25	Henderson State	4
53	Long, Mel	LB	6-0	228	28	Toledo	4
57	McClowry, Bob	C	6-3	245	24	Michigan State	1
49	McDaniel, Mike	C	6-2	235	22	Kansas	1
78	McKay, Bob	T	6-5	260	27	Texas	6
37	McKinnis, Hugh	RB	6-0	215	27	Arizona State	3
89	Morin, Milt	TE	6-4	236	32	Massachusetts	10
15	Phipps, Mike	QB	6-3	205	27	Purdue	6
13	Polke, Ken	QB	6-0	190	23	Dayton	1
39	Pritchett, Billy	RB	6-3	230	24	West Texas State	1
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	24	Oklahoma	3
56	Romaniszyn, Jim	LB	6-2	224	23	Edinboro State	3
80	Rucker, Reggie	WR	6-2	190	27	Boston	6
22	Scott, Clarence	CB	6-0	180	26	Kansas State	5
35	Scott, Bo	RB	6-3	215	32	Ohio State	7
66	Seifert, Mike	DE	6-3	245	24	Wisconsin	2
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4	255	27	Oklahoma State	6
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	195	26	San Diego State	2
85	Smith, Ken	TE	6-4	225	24	New Mexico	2
48	Sullivan, Dave	WR	5-11	185	24	Virginia	2
79	Sullivan, Gerry	T	6-4	250	23	Illinois	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Mitchell, Mack	5	DE	Houston
3.	Roan, Oscar	57	WR	Southern Methodist
4.	Peters, Tony	82	DB	Oklahoma
5.	Zimba, John	109	DE	Villanova
	Cope, Jim from Detroit	119	LB	Ohio State
	Miller, Charles from Washington	150	DB	West Virginia
	Hynoski, Henry from Oakland	154	RB	Temple
7.	Wang, Merle	161	T	Texas Christian
8.	Santini, Barry	186	TE	Purdue
9.	Poole, Larry	213	RB	Kent State
	Hogan, Floyd from Kansas City	215	DB	Arkansas
10.	Lewis, Stan	238	DE	Wayne, Neb.
11.	Marinelli, Tom	265	G	Boston College
12.	Ambrose, Dick	290	LB	Virginia
13.	Armstead, Willie	317	WR	Utah
14.	Barrett, Tim	341	RB	John Carroll
15.	Moore, Willie	369	DT	Johnson C. Smith
16.	Mc Kay, J. K.	394	WR	So. California
17.	Graf, Dave	421	LB	Penn State

COACHES:

FORREST GREGG, Blanton Collier, Walt Corey, Doug Gerhart, Rod Humenuik, Richie McCabe, Dick Modzelewski, George Sefcik, Al Tabor.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Ken Smith, out all last year with an injury, and Purdue's Barry Santini, a No. 6 pick, line up behind Morin.

Offensive line—The up-front look is a new one in Cleveland, with youngsters Pete Adams (left guard) and Gerry Sullivan (right tackle) working their way into the picture. Sullivan teams with the steady Doug Dieken at the tackles while Bob McKay, who escaped a WFL contract with Chicago, shifts to guard. That allows John Demarie to move to center, where he will challenge 15-year vet Bob De Marco. There is plenty of depth, too, with tackle Barry Darrow, guards Chuck Hutchison and Glen Holloway (if he doesn't go WFL), and center Tom DeLeon. The top rookie hopes are tackle Merl Wang of TCU and guard Tom Marinelli of Boston College, a school which has made a practice of turning out draftable offensive linemen in recent years.

DEFENSE

Front four—In the recent past, tackles Walter Johnson and Jerry Sherk have toiled in Pro Bowl style while a parade of ends tried to solve the dilemma to their outside. Now, with Mitchell and second-year man Mike Seifert available, Cleveland may start getting some of that outside rush. Two other youngsters, third-year man Carl Barisich and second-year player Mark Ilgenfritz, could be the eventual tackle replacements when the time comes. Both spent time trying to solve the end problems last year. Another touted rookie joining the corps is John Zimba of Villanova, programmed to play as an end.

Linebackers—For a long time this was an area of concern for the Browns, with different players being tested at different spots, and then being switched again. A trio settled into its spots last year and has stabilized the linebacking. Heading the group is middleman Bob Babich, the key pickup from San Diego two years ago, who hits as hard as anyone in the league. He is flanked by steady John Garlington on the weakside and the 6-3½, 230-pound and improving Charlie Hall on the strongside. Backups are Jim Romaniszyn and Mel Long, who like most good spare linebackers do the bulk of their hitting on special teams. Top rookie prospect is Ohio State's Jim Cope, a defensive end who'll make the switch to linebacking in the pros. Cope was overshadowed by other members of the Buckeye defensive unit, but rarely was the cause of a breakdown on the unit. Dick Ambrose of Virginia rates an outside shot at a job.

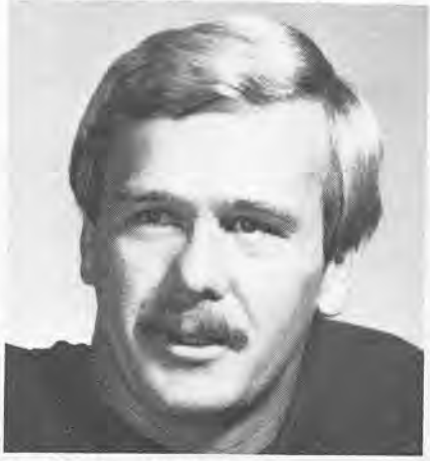
Secondary—Gregg is three-quarters protected here, with left cornerback Clarence Scott, who had four interceptions last year and continued to establish himself as one of the better corners around; free safety Thom Darden, another brilliant youngster who picked off eight aerials; and steady strong safety Walt Sumner. Right cornerback, however, was a problem last year. The spot was opened up by a trade of Ben Davis to Detroit. Cliff Brooks and Van Green were given shots at the spot, but neither took charge. New hopefuls include journeyman Lonnie Hepburn and Tony Peters, the fourth-round draft choice who played well in Oklahoma's secondary. Green and Eddie Brown, along with Preston Anderson and rookie Floyd Hogan, present plenty of depth at the safety spots. And a darkhorse entering the Brooks-Green-Hepburn-Peters derby at right corner is Charles Miller, a sixth-round pick from West Virginia.

Special teams—Don Cockroft continues to be a dynamo in both kicking areas. He connected on a remarkable 14 of 16 field goals last year, best percentage in the NFL. And he averaged 40.5 for each of his 90 punts, which were the highest total attempted by any punter in the American Conference. Cockroft did yield his kickoff duties to Chris Gartner, a luxury afforded by the 47-man active roster. Pruitt, in addition to becoming the top running threat, still excels as a kick returner. He averaged 12.9 per punt runback, with a 72-yarder for an almost-TD against Denver. He was even better on kickoffs, leading the AFC with a 27.5 norm and returning one 88 yards for a TD. Darden, Le Fear and Eddie Brown help out the speedy ex-Sooner with the returns.

Oscar Roan

No. 17—Brian Sipe

No. 60—Bob Babich



No. 12—Don Cockroft

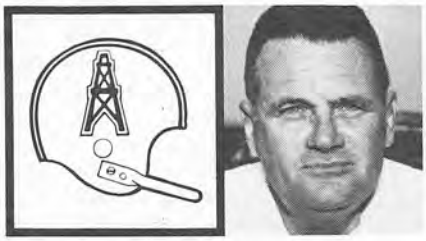
1974 Season Results

CLEVELAND (4-10-0)

7		Cincinnati	33
20	*	Houston	7
7		St. Louis	29
24	*	Oakland	40
24	*	Cincinnati	34
16		Pittsburgh	20
23	*	Denver	21
35		San Diego	36
21		New England	14
16	*	Pittsburgh	26
10	*	Buffalo	15
7	*	San Francisco	0
17		Dallas	41
24		Houston	28

* DENOTES HOME GAME

HOUSTON OILERS



HEAD COACH O.A. "BUM" PHILLIPS

Well, the Houston Oilers have a new head coach this year, but that's no big deal. The Astrodome franchise isn't strange to having a new drill instructor at the beginning of each season. But the circumstances surrounding O.A. "Bum" Phillips' ascension to the the Oiler throne are newsworthy.

Phillips isn't taking over a team of poverty, with a main objective of turning the program around. That was accomplished last year by Sid Gillman, who, to the amazement of many, finished at .500 with a club which for two years running, or walking, was 1-13. Sir Sidney, as he had promised, handed the coaching reins over to one of his assistants, Phillips, who had been running the defense.

Gillman was to stay on as general manager. But when a chasm forming between Sid and owner K.S. "Bud" Adams widened, Gillman left the organization completely. Phillips also assumed the general manager's post, and now in Houston we have the "Bud and Bum Show."

How successful the program will be depends upon a continuation of the performances during the final eight weeks of last season. After starting off 1-5, and apparently headed for another 1-13, the Oilers won six of their last eight, including upsets of eventual champion Pittsburgh (the Steelers' last loss) and playoff-bound Buffalo, plus two wins over Cincinnati and a triumph over the Jets, who were not to lose again.

Reasons for the turnaround are as plentiful as the number of coaches the Oilers have had since they were born into the AFL in 1960. First, that all-important feeling of belief in one's self and one's teammates, coupled with a long-absent winning attitude, spread throughout the Houston Oiler locker room.

Second, quarterback Dan Pastorini, along with his sidekick, Lynn Dickey, acquired the maturity necessary to lead a winning attack.

Finally, the insertion of Curley Culp at the middleguard spot gave the three-man front the impetus it needed to make Phillips' new defense work.

That defense, with three up front and four linebackers, also was used in New England, where Chuck Fairbanks was the coach. Perhaps it isn't a coincidence both Phillips and Fairbanks worked on the same coaching staff at the University of Houston a few years back.

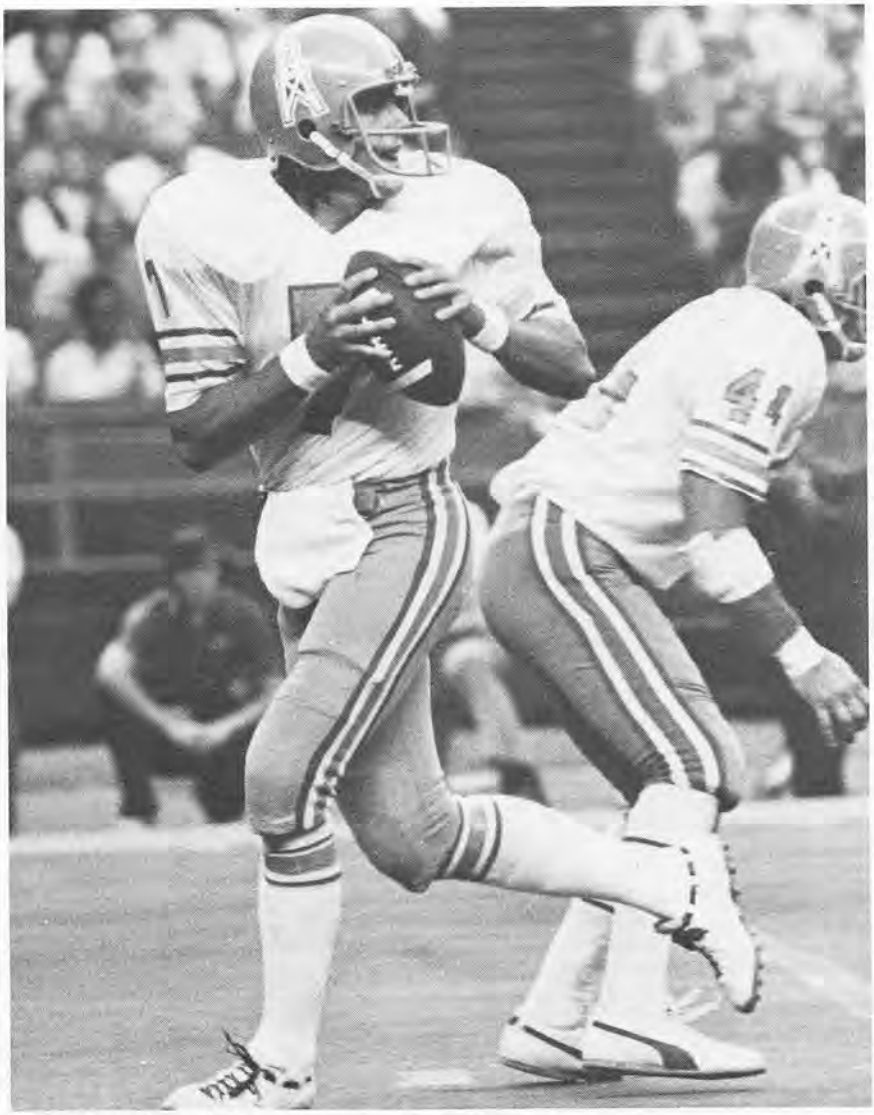
"Our defense should be better this year because we have played a full season using our new setup and won't have to go through so much adjustment, and we won't have to do as much moving of personnel," Phillips said recently.

Statistically the defense looked mediocre at best. But in a four-game stretch late in the year it allowed just 32 points to Buffalo and O.J., Cincinnati and Ken Anderson, Dallas, and the champ-to-be Steelers. In the Pittsburgh game, the Steelers managed just 84 yards in total offense.

It's from those performances Phillips derives the promise he preaches for his defensive unit. Offensively he points to the emergence of Pastorini as team leader as his primary source for optimism.

"When Dan steps into the huddle, the team knows he is the leader and they accept and believe in him," said Phillips.

So the "Bud and Bum Show" is ready for airing, with Phillips confident his half won't be cancelled after 14 weeks.



No. 7—Dan Pastorini

HOUSTON OILERS

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Pastorini, who'll be entering his fifth pro season, had by far the most impressive passing stats of his career in '74 with a 56.6 completion percentage, 1571 yards, 10 interceptions (down from 17 in '73) and 10 TDs (up from five in '73). Phillips attributes much of Pastorini's improvement to the influence of King Hill, the former journeyman quarterback who now guides the Oiler offense. Hill also had a hand in helping Dickey, still coming back from a crushing injury two years ago, to a 55.7 completion average and continued improvement in all phases of his game. "I doubt there's a team with two better young quarterbacks than Pastorini and Dickey," boasts Phillips, and not idly, either. The No. 3 man is Jim Foote, a free agent who hustled his way onto the squad during the strike last summer.

Running backs—Phillips looks for a major improvement in this area for several reasons: Vic Washington will have had a year to adjust to the Oiler system; Fred Wills should be healthy again after a season of nagging injuries; and Don Hardeman arrives. Washington, obtained from San Francisco, was running well late in the year after he stopped looking for the Golden Gate. Willis, always a steady runner and excellent receiver, should form an excellent one-two halfback punch with Washington. That would leave fullback to the hard-hitting Hardeman, who gained 1547 yards, averaged 7.2 per try, and scored 18 TDs in his one season as a fullback at Texas A&I. He's 6-2, 230, and was a second selection in the first round. Willie Rodgers, last year's leading rusher, heads a long list of returnees which also includes Ronnie Coleman, Bob Gresham, George Amundson and Terry Wells.

Receivers—With improvement in a quarterback automatically comes improvement in at least one receiver. In Houston's case that receiver was Ken Burrough, whose greater concentration led to fewer dropped balls. As a result, Burrough caught 36 passes in 11 games (he missed the last three with an elbow injury) and gained respect as a fine all-around receiver. He teams with Billy Parks, he of great hands, and little Billy Johnson, drafted as a kick returner last year. Jerry LeVias has been recaptured, by trade from San Diego. A place will have to be made for Kansas' Emmett Edwards, a 4.4, 9.4 sprinter who averaged 16.7 yards for each of his 105 college receptions. Two other rookies, though not as highly touted as Edwards, are Ricky Scales of Virginia Tech and Willie Miller of Colorado State. Mack Alston does a solid job at tight end and now the Oilers have a capable backup in 6-10 Morris Stroud, the ex-Chief.

Offensive line—After years of shuffling, the Oiler front wall stabilized last year and the results were encouraging. Greg Sampson successfully shifted from defense to offensive tackle, where he teamed with Elbert Drungo. Guards Brian Goodman and Ron Saul and center Fred Hoaglin, apparently free of a WFL contract, rounded out the unit. But Hoaglin faces a stiff challenge from the underrated Carl Mauck, obtained from San Diego. Depth is plentiful, especially at

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
19	Alexander, Willie	CB	6-3	190	26	Alcorn A&M	5
82	Alston, Mack	TE	6-3	230	28	Maryland-E.S.	6
12	Amundson, George	RB	6-3	215	24	Iowa State	3
48	Atkins, Bob	S	6-3	210	29	Grambling	8
50	Babinecz, John	LB	6-1	222	25	Villanova	3
52	Benson, Duane	LB	6-2	215	30	Hamline	9
65	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	29	North Carolina A&T	8
4	Beverly, David	P	6-2	180	24	Auburn	2
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	24	Purdue	3
00	Burrough, Ken	WR	6-3	210	27	Texas Southern	6
2	Butler, Skip	K	6-0	200	28	Texas-Arlington	5
63	Carroll, Ronnie	G	6-2	265	26	Sam Houston	2
47	Coleman, Ronnie	RB	5-10	195	24	Alabama A&M	2
76	Cowlings, Al	LB	6-5	245	28	Southern California	6
78	Culp, Curley	G	6-1	265	29	Arizona State	8
58	Davis, Marvin	LB	6-4	235	23	Southern	2
10	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	210	26	Kansas State	5
75	Drungo, Elbert	T	6-4	265	32	Tennessee State	7
70	Fisher, Ed	DE	6-3	245	25	Arizona State	2
11	Foote, James	QB	6-2	210	24	Delaware Valley	2
32	Ford, Charlie	CB	6-3	185	27	Houston	5
69	Freelon, Solomon	G	6-2	249	24	Grambling	4
68	Goodman, Brian	G	6-2	250	26	UCLA	3
36	Gresham, Bob	RB	5-11	195	27	West Virginia	5
71	Hayman, Conway	G	6-3	260	26	Delaware	3
70	Hines, Glen Ray	T	6-5	265	32	Arkansas	9
53	Hoaglin, Fred	C	6-4	250	31	Pittsburgh	10
72	Hunt, Kevin	T	6-5	260	27	Doane, Neb.	4
15	Johnson, Al	S	6-0	200	25	Cincinnati	4
84	Johnson, Billy	WR	5-9	170	23	Widener	2
61	Jones, Harris	G	6-4	245	30	Johnson C. Smith	4
57	Kiner, Steve	LB	6-1	220	28	Tennessee	5
25	LeVias, Jerry	WR	5-9	178	29	SMU	7
51	Lou, Ron	C	6-2	235	24	Arizona State	2
58	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	245	28	So. Illinois	7
42	Maxwell, Tommy	S	6-2	195	28	Texas A&M	7
71	McCollum, Bubba	DT	6-0	250	23	Kentucky	2
24	Montgomery, Mike	WR	6-2	210	27	Kansas State	5
22	Moore, Zeke	CB	6-3	196	32	Lincoln	9
20	Parks, Billy	WR	6-1	190	27	Cal State-Long Beach	5
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	26	Santa Clara	5
46	Queen, Jeff	TE	6-1	217	29	Morgan State	7
56	Roberts, Guy	LB	6-1	217	25	Maryland	4
34	Rodgers, Willie	RB	6-1	210	26	Kentucky State	4
73	Sampson, Greg	T	6-6	260	25	Stanford	4
64	Saul, Ron	G	6-2	255	27	Michigan State	6
45	Severson, Jeff	S	6-0	185	26	Cal State-Long Beach	4
77	Smith, Sid	C	6-4	260	27	Southern California	6
85	Smith, Tody	DE	6-5	250	27	Southern California	5
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-1	240	27	Mississippi Valley	2
23	Washington, Vic	RB	5-10	196	29	Wyoming	5
41	Wells, Terence	RB	5-11	195	23	Southern Mississippi	2
79	White, Jim	DE	6-4	255	27	Colorado State	3
38	Whittington, C. L.	S	6-1	200	24	Prairie View	2
44	Willis, Fred	RB	6-0	205	28	Boston College	5

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Brazile, Robert from Kansas City	6	LB	Jackson State
	Hardeman, Don	15	RB	Texas A&I
2.	Edwards, Emmett	40	WR	Kansas
6.	O'Neal, Jesse	146	DE	Grambling
7.	Biehle, Mike from Kansas City	162	T	Miami, Ohio
	Cotney, Mark	171	DB	Cameron
8.	Lawrence, Jerry	196	DT	South Dakota State
9.	Bruer, Bob	221	TE	Mankato State
10.	Pringle, Alan	246	K	Rice
11.	Sawyer, John	271	TE	Southern Mississippi
12.	Miller, Willie	302	WR	Colorado State
13.	Scales, Ricky	327	WR	Virginia Tech
14.	Medford, Jody	352	G	Rice
15.	Holmes, Jack	377	RB	Texas Southern
16.	Lambert, Ken	402	DB	Virginia Tech
17.	Seeker, Ricky	427	C	Texas A&M

COACHES:

O.A. "BUM" PHILLIPS, Ed Biles, Sam Boghosian, Andy Bourgeois, King Hill, Glen Ray Hines, Joe Madro, Larry Peccatiello, Richie Petitbon, Fran Polsfoot, George Rice.

guard where Harris Jones and Solomon Freelon take regular turns without a loss of effectiveness. Kevin Hunt and rookies Jerry Lawrence and Mike Biehle support the tackles, while Sid Smith and Ron Lou are backup pivots. The switch of Sampson was so successful the Oilers are moving two other defensive performers to offense, Ronnie Carroll to guard and Ed Fisher to center. Both were noseguards.

DEFENSE

Front three—The acquisition of fireplug Culp, who had signed a WFL contract, for giant John Matuszak was questioned in Houston last mid-season. But Culp fit the needs at middleguard perfectly, and now has escaped his Southern California Sun contract. The 6-1, 265-pounder had six sacks in eight games and stabilized the entire Oiler unit. Ends Elvin Bethea and Tody Smith combine with Culp to form a solid, sometimes spectacular, trio. Bethea is a perennial Pro Bowler while Smith is no longer just "Bubba's younger brother." The Oilers' own Bubba (McCollum) is Culp's backup although rookie Jessie O'Neal of Grambling will be given a shot there. Jim White, who played well as No. 1 sub last year, and journeyman Lee Thomas back the ends.

Linebackers—Although Phillips was pleased with the cohesiveness of the Ted Washington-Steve Kiner-Gregg Bingham-Duane Benson unit at the end of last season, a spot might have to be opened for Robert Brazile, the No. 1 draft pick from Jackson State. Brazile is rated by many as the top linebacking prospect in years. The 6-4, 230-pounder had 129 individual tackles and 79 assists in '74, and also had nine interceptions. He's penciled in as a challenger to Benson on the right outside, but could wind up anywhere in the foursome. Washington, who led the team with 11 sacks from the left outside spot, Bingham, and Kiner all had good seasons while Guy Roberts, who led the team in interceptions in '73, and Al Cowlings, making the shift from the defensive line, served as backups. There also is hope young Marvin Davis, John Babinecz, a waiver pickup from Dallas, and Ricky Browne, a '73 draft pick who quit camp, will contribute.

Secondary—Phillips was pleased with his secondary except for one thing—he lacked a backup cornerback. So he dealt with Philadelphia and obtained Charlie Ford to satisfy that need. The regular corners, Zeke Moore and Willie Alexander, are steady with Alexander a vastly underrated performer. Free safety Bob Atkins had his finest season after six years of undistinguished service. Atkins led the team with six interceptions, and is set at his spot. Strong safety could belong to C.L. Whittington, who last year bounced from running back to wide receiver to tight end to linebacker to defensive back as a rookie. Whittington, at 6-1, 210, will battle vets Al Johnson, Tommy Maxwell and Jeff Severson for the spot. Draft pick Mark Cotney also eyes the position. The free agent dragnet caught Mike Simpson, former 49er safety dropped last year by the Colts, and cornerback Ron Lumpkin, who played a year with the Giants.

Special teams—With the increase in roster capacity to 47, the Oilers could afford to carry a punter and take those duties and worries off Pastorini's already overloaded shoulders. David Beverly averaged 39.2 per kick but allowed just a 8.9-yard return per boot. Pastorini and the multi-talented Foote are other punters. Skip Butler, slowed by a pulled muscle, was nine-of-19 in field goals and perfect on 29 extra point tries. He faces a challenge from Alan Pringle of nearby Rice, who was 20 of 29, including a 50-yarder, in field goal tries as a collegian. Billy Johnson was topflight on returns with a 27.1 kickoff mark and 13.6 punt return average. Gresham, Severson and Vic Washington are also there to help out.

No. 89—Jim McCollum

No. 84—Billy Johnson

No. 55—Robert Brazile

1974 Season Results

HOUSTON (7-7-0)

21	*San Diego	14
7	Cleveland	20
7	*Kansas City	17
7	*Pittsburgh	13
10	Minnesota	51
27	*St. Louis	31
34	Cincinnati	21
27	N.Y. Jets	22
21	Buffalo	9
20	*Cincinnati	3
0	*Dallas	10
13	Pittsburgh	10
14	Denver	37
28	*Cleveland	24

* DENOTES HOME GAME

OAKLAND RAIDERS

HEAD COACH JOHN MADDEN

If there ever was anything called "planned desperation," it occurred in Oakland last December. With the clock running out, and defensive end Vern Den Herder draped all over him, Raider quarterback Ken Stabler barely got off a floater aimed at a good section of the Miami Dolphin linebacker corps.

Somehow Clarence Davis slipped in among the Dolphin defenders, grabbed the playoff-winning pass, and ended Miami's dominance of pro football. It looked like the Oakland Raiders finally were going to climb the summit predicted of them every year.

What a difference a week can make!

If there ever was anything called "desperate desperation," it also occurred in Oakland last December, one week after the Raider miracle. With the AFC championship clock at all different angles, the same Stabler ran for his wits as the Pittsburgh muggers hounded him continually. And with a running game which amassed just 29 yards, Oakland was dead again, without a Super Victory or even a Super Bowl loss.

It's getting to be a tired story in the Bay Area, the ultimate collapse of the Oakland Raiders. No team has had a better regular-season record in recent years than the Raiders. And few teams have had worse post-season marks.

As coach John Madden and managing general partner Al Davis began to reassemble the Raiders for 1975, they received the news that one integral part of the machine wouldn't be missing after another season. Stabler, the southpaw passer who gained All Pro calling in '74, shook free of a World Football League contract scheduled to take effect in 1976. The Snake will remain a Raider.

So what rated as Oakland's biggest problem going into last season is a problem no more. Even with Daryle Lamonica still slated to join the WFL this year, the Raiders are set at quarterback for a long time to come with the talented Stabler.

Now, Madden and Davis, or Davis and Madden, if you prefer, must attend to other pressing matters. No. 1, they must shore up a defense which rated no better than 16th in the National Football League. Special notice must be given to the secondary, where Willie Brown has seen better days and George Atkinson has become embroiled in legal problems. And a look or two must be given to that running game, which while the third best in NFL regular-season stats was rendered completely ineffective by the Steelers in the championship tilt.

The Raider braintrust as usual, was

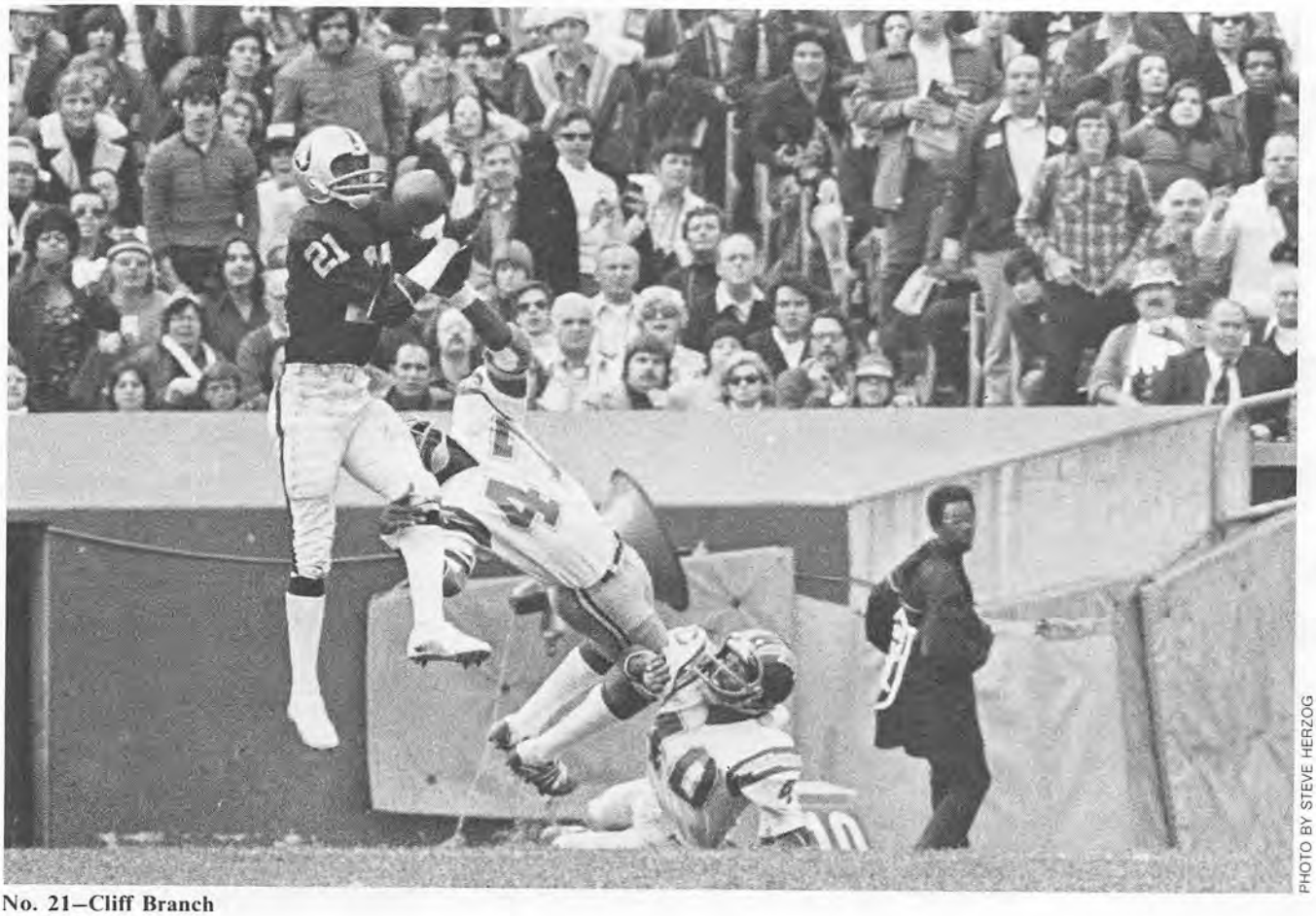


PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 21—Cliff Branch

right on top of the situation during the draft. Although blessed with just 10 picks, Davis and Madden turned three of them into defensive backs, three into running backs, and two more into quarterbacks in an effort to find a suitable backup for Stabler. And to further solidify the running game, the Raiders signed fullback James McAlister, one of the better runners in the WFL last year. The UCLA star had been drafted in '74 despite reports he already had signed with the new league. Oakland took a gamble, and apparently has won.

The cast is set, and it is as brilliant as ever. Once again Oakland must rate with the pre-season favorites. Undoubtedly the Raiders will be there when the playoffs start. But where will they be when the Orange Bowl hosts Super Bowl X in January?

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Only one quarterback, Cincinnati's Ken Anderson, had a better passing season than Stabler enjoyed in 1974. The Raider southpaw was 57 percent accurate for 2469 yards, a league-high 26 touchdowns, and just 12 interceptions. He was even better against Miami with 20 of 30 for 293 yards and four scores. No one quarrels with stats like that. Since Stabler is a left-hander, it takes an offense some adjusting to get used to him. So why not have another left-hander as the backup man to eliminate any need of readjusting to a right-hander? The Raiders selected David Humm, Nebraska's southpaw, on the fifth round for exactly that reason. He'll battle with second-year man Larry Lawrence, a good runner, and rookie Harry Knight of Richmond for the backup slot. And, of course, George Blanda will be around, too, just in case. Blanda tossed a 28-yard scoring pass against Dallas in last year's regular-season finale.

Running backs—Block-busting Marv Hubbard (865 yards), speedy Clarence Davis (554), steady Pete Banaszak (272), explosive Harold Hart (268), slashing Charlie Smith (194) and young Mark van Eeghen (139). It certainly looks like a strong-enough area, but some doubts were reflected in the drafting of Maryland's Louis Carter in the third round. Carter is an all-around player who can, among other things, throw an option pass. McAlister adds more speed to the fullback slot while two other later picks, Paul Careathers of Tennessee and Yale quarterback Tom Doyle, will be fighting for jobs. Squadman Bob Hudson carried the ball only once last year, but he is invaluable on special teams.

Receivers—The emergence of Cliff Branch as an every-play receiver helped Stabler's passing game tremendously. The 5-11 Branch, a spot player in the past, caught 60 passes for 1092 yards (only he and Dallas' Drew Pearson exceeded 1000 yards in receptions) and a league-high 13 touchdowns. The pro sprinter averaged 18.2 yards per catch and added a deep threat to the Raider attack. He blends perfectly with the always-sensational Fred Biletnikoff (42 catches, 7 TDs). Behind them is the slick Mike Siani, whose knee injury gave Branch the chance to play every day. Veteran Frank Pitts and Morris Bradshaw, a swift second-year man from Ohio State, represent the depth. Bob Moore had an excellent season at tight end with 30 receptions and improved blocking. He's backed by the huge Dave Casper (6-4, 250), who had four catches, three for TDs, as a freshman. Vet Warren Bankston, another handyman, former Brown Jim Thaxton, and lanky Kent Gaydos, out all last year with an injury, are other tight ends.

Offensive line—John Vella fit right in at Bob Brown's old right tackle spot, and the Raider line went on in its usual effective fashion. Pro Bowlers Art Shell (left tackle) and Gene Up-

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
43	Atkinson, George	S	6-0	180	28	Morris Brown	8
40	Banaszak, Pete	RB	5-11	210	31	Miami	10
46	Bankston, Warren	TE-RB	6-4	235	28	Tulane	7
25	Biletnikoff, Fred	WR	6-1	190	32	Florida State	11
16	Blanda, George	QB-K	6-2	215	46	Kentucky	26
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-0	198	22	Ohio State	2
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	27	Colorado	4
24	Brown, Willie	CB	6-1	195	34	Grambling	13
64	Buehler, George	G	6-2	260	28	Stanford	7
61	Carr, Ray	DT	6-5	248	26	Newberry	1
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	250	23	Notre Dame	2
84	Cline, Tony	DE	6-3	244	27	Miami	6
55	Conners, Dan	LB	6-1	230	33	Miami	12
50	Dalby, Dave	C-G	6-2	240	24	UCLA	4
28	Davis, Clarence	RB	5-10	195	26	Southern California	5
54	Dennery, Mike	LB	6-0	222	25	Southern Mississippi	2
73	Gay, Blenda	DE	6-5	250	24	Fayetteville	1
18	Gaydos, Kent	TE	6-6	215	25	Florida State	1
8	Guy, Ray	K	6-3	190	25	Southern Mississippi	3
83	Hall, Willie	LB	6-2	220	25	Southern California	3
34	Hart, Harold	RB	6-0	206	23	Texas Southern	2
44	Hubbard, Marv	RB	6-1	225	29	Colgate	7
36	Hudson, Bob	RB	5-11	205	26	Northeastern Oklahoma	4
86	Irons, Gerald	LB	6-2	230	28	Maryland-E.S.	6
6	Jakowenko, George	K	5-9	170	27	Syracuse	2
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-4	235	23	Nebraska	3
82	Jones, Horace	DE	6-3	255	26	Louisville	5
71	Korver, Kelvin	DT	6-6	270	26	Northwestern, Iowa	3
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	268	23	Florida A&M	2
13	Lawrence, Larry	QB	6-1	208	26	Iowa	2
79	Medlin, Dan	G	6-3	260	25	North Carolina State	2
88	Moore, Bob	TE	6-3	220	26	Stanford	5
76	Mooring, John	T	6-6	255	27	Tampa	5
00	Otto, Jim	C	6-2	255	37	Miami	16
67	Paul, Harold	T	6-5	245	25	Oklahoma	1
85	Pitts, Frank	WR	6-3	199	31	Southern	11
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	265	28	Maryland-E.S.	8
49	Siani, Mike	WR	6-2	195	25	Villanova	4
60	Sistrunk, Otis	DT	6-4	255	27	None	4
77	Smith, Bubba	DE	6-7	265	30	Michigan State	8
23	Smith, Charlie	RB	6-0	205	29	Utah	8
27	Smith, Ron	CB-S	6-1	195	32	Wisconsin	11
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	215	29	Alabama	6
32	Tatum, Jack	S	5-11	200	26	Ohio State	5
89	Thaxton, Jim	TE	6-2	240	26	Tennessee State	3
26	Thomas, Alonzo	CB	6-1	205	25	Southern California	4
80	Thoms, Art	DT	6-5	260	28	Syracuse	7
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	29	Texas A&I	9
30	Van Eaghen, Mark	RB	6-1	215	23	Colgate	2
75	Vella, John	T	6-4	255	25	Southern California	4
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	222	26	Bowling Green	5
20	Warren, Jimmy	CB-S	5-11	175	36	Illinois	12
52	Weaver, Gary	LB	6-1	224	26	Fresno State	3

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Colzie, Neal	24	DB	Ohio State
2.	Phillips, Charles from Buffalo	45	DB	So. California
3.	Carter, Louis	76	RB	Maryland
5.	Humm, Dave	128	QB	Nebraska
7.	Daniels, James	180	DB	Texas A&M
9.	Knight, Harry	232	QB	Richmond
10.	Sylvester, Steve	259	T	Notre Dame
12.	Magee, Jack	310	C	Boston College
14.	Doyle, Tom	362	QB	Yale
15.	Careathers, Paul	389	RB	Tennessee

COACHES:
JOHN MADDEN, Tom Dahms, Tom Flores, John Robinson, Joe Scannella, Don Shinnick, Oliver Spencer, Bob Zeman.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

shaw (right guard) join stalwarts George Buehler (left guard) and the indestructible, almost, Jim Otto (center). Otto was slowed by injuries but went through his 15th pro season without missing a game once again. Dave Dalby, the heir-apparent at center, tackle Henry Lawrence, last year's No. 1 draft pick, and squadman Dan Medlin are the backups. The Raiders re-obtained tackle Harold Paul, one of three players sent on lend-lease to San Diego last year, to further bolster the reserve strength.

DEFENSE

Front four—A knee injury to Tony Cline disrupted the defensive front last season. Bubba Smith, not what he used to be, filled in with mixed results. Horace Jones, the other end, and tackles Otis Sistrunk of University of Mars fame and Art Thoms, one of the league's most underrated performers, form the rest of what could be a topflight front. Cline missed nine games, and was at half-speed for four others last year. The unit totaled 36 sacks. Beside Smith, tackle Kelvin Korver provides backup strength. Ray Carr and Blenda Gay, the other two Charger lend-leases, are back to provide competition. Gay, a 250-pound defensive end, scored a TD on a fumble recovery in his brief stay with the Chargers.

Linebackers—Oakland got its usual solid showing from All-Pro Phil Villapiano, middleman Dan Conners and underrated Gerald Irons. But it will be difficult to keep Monte Johnson from finding a spot. Johnson, former Nebraska down-lineman, served as the fourth linebacker in spot situations last year and impressed with his reckless play. With Conners entering his 12th year, it may not be long before Johnson takes over in the middle, or on the right side, with Irons shifting into the middle. Gary Weaver and Mike Dennery, two special team stars, provide depth. Oakland also has signed Willie Hall, onetime USC All-America who failed in a trial with the New Orleans Saints.

Secondary—Signs of a possible defensive backfield decline had the Raiders thinking DB in the draft. The No. 1 choice was Neal Colzie, Ohio State's All-America who could fit right in at right cornerback, where Brown once performed in an All-Pro fashion. USC's Charles Phillips, selected on the second round, is insurance at tight safety just in case Atkinson is delayed by procedings in his court case. That leaves Skip Thomas at left corner and Jack Tatum at free safety. Thomas played well in his first stint as a regular and led the team in interceptions with six. Tatum had four thefts and missed four games with an injury. He's still high up on the list of hitters. Brown, slowed by knee injuries, split time with veteran Nemiah Wilson (since traded to the Bears) last year. Also around were vets Jimmy Warren, who can play all four spots, and Ron Smith, the kick returner, as well as young Mike Holt, injured all last year. Besides the top two picks, rookies added in the draft were James Daniels of Texas A&M in the seventh round and Doyle, who may get a shot as a runner, too, in the 14th.

Special teams—Blanda's stats read 46 and 26; 46 years old, 26 years as a pro. Still he was 11-of-17 in field goal tries last season and missed just two of 46 extra point tries. He yielded the kickoff chores to George Jakowenko, signed in mid-season. Now another young kicker enters the picture in Richie Szaro, who just missed out with the Eagles and played in the WFL last year. Ray Guy was the best NFL punter with a 42.2 average. No problems here. For returns, Oakland has the double-duty Ron Smith (11.9 per punt, 22.1 per kickoff) and Clarence Davis. In addition, Colzie was a topflight punt returner in college and Carter, who does it all, has experience as a kickoff return man.

No. 63—Gene Upshaw

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 00—Jim Otto

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 40—Pete Banaszak No. 12—Ken Stabler

No. 16—George Blanda

1974 Season Results

OAKLAND (12-2-0)

20	Buffalo	21
27	*Kansas City	7
17	Pittsburgh	0
40	Cleveland	24
14	San Diego	10
30	*Cincinnati	27
35	San Francisco	24
28	Denver	17
35	*Detroit	13
17	*San Diego	10
17	*Denver	20
41	*New England	26
7	Kansas City	6
27	*Dallas	23

* DENOTES HOME GAME

DENVER BRONCOS

HEAD COACH JOHN RALSTON

It's hard to believe a team with a 7-5-2 record, representing its only effort above the .500 mark, could grow complacent in the highly competitive National Football League. Yet coach John Ralston thinks this was the problem his Denver Broncos encountered last season, when many figured they would be a playoff factor.

"We learned a lot about ourselves last year," Ralston admits. "We thought we were a helluva football team and the 1974 season solidifies our thinking about football teams: no one stays the same, you either get better or slip some. Although we showed some individual improvement, we didn't get better as a team."

Actually the Broncos only slipped a half-notch, recordwise, from the 7-5-2 of '73 to 7-6-1. And it was only the second winning season in the franchise history.

"But that's not enough anymore," Ralston says.

Obviously the novelty of a Denver team winning more than it loses has worn off, and the Mile High fans are looking for something they've yet to experience—football after the close of the regular season. And entering his fourth year, the effervescent Ralston is hoping playoffs finally will arrive in Denver.

To help assure that, the former Stanford and Utah State coach aimed to solidify the area on which he thinks the Pittsburgh Steelers rode to the world championship—defense.

"The Steelers proved you win the battle with offense, but the war with defense," Ralston said.

The Broncos' first two picks, and seven of their first 10 selections, are defensive prospects. And four veterans, linemen Greg Marx and Phil Olsen, linebacker Billy Andrews, and defensive back Clarence Ellis, were brought in from other clubs to challenge for jobs.

Denver rated a lowly 21st out of 26 NFL defensive units, and an even lower 24th against the pass. Ralston's first draft pick, Louie Wright of San Jose State, is a cornerback with the qualifications Willie Buchanan brought to Green Bay from college. He's a tough nut on coverage.

Following Wright, Ralston selected a pass-rusher in Charles "Bubba" Smith, a 6-5, 245-pound end from North Carolina Central. Smith has four goals as a pro: 1) make the team; 2) become a starter; 3) have a successful career; and 4) be the best there is at his position.

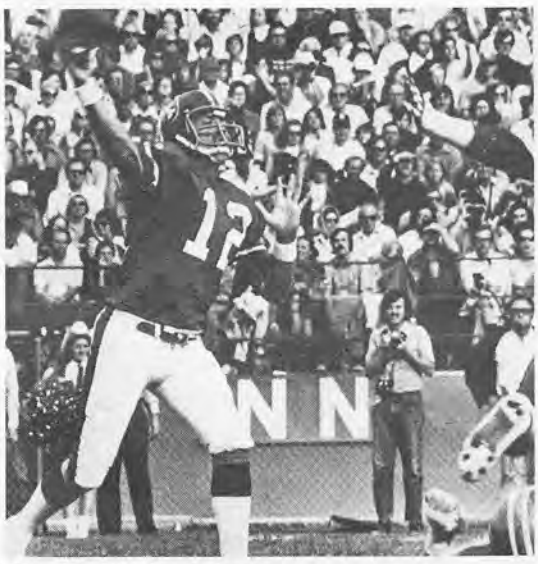
How long it will take Smith to reach No. 4 is a question, but if he can gain the No. 2 level as a rookie, and start working on No. 3, Ralston's club should be better off against the pass. The addition of this Smith, plus the return of another, should hypo Denver's rush against the passer.

Paul Smith, who finally gained the All-Pro honors he deserved in 1973, missed virtually the entire 1974 campaign because of a foot injury. "We just didn't seem to get things back together after losing Paul," Ralston said.

While the defense, even with its hand-holding in the huddle, had its problems, the Bronco offense lived up to its end of the deal which was to have brought a Denver title in '74. The emergence of Otis Armstrong as a topflight runner and the addition of Jon Keyworth as a big fullback made the fans all but forget about the Floyd Little-Joe Dawkins duo which just a year ago had totaled better than 1600 yards. After a slow start, Charley Johnson wound up fifth in the league in passing. Riley Odoms and Haven Moses excelled as receivers and the line blocked with enough efficiency to get the Broncos a No. 5 ranking in NFL total offense. It was good enough for a winning year, but that's now becoming old hat in Denver.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—The 36-year-old Johnson, who has been patched up more than the Middle East in recent years, spent the off-season away from a hospital and will be entering the season not coming off some type of surgery. In his 14th pro campaign, Johnson completed 56 percent of his passes for 1969 yards and needs 1600 more yards



No. 12—Charley Johnson

No. 24—Otis Armstrong

No. 25—Haven Moses

DENVER BRONCOS

to reach the 25,000-mark. In games where Charley was hurt, or ineffective, Steve Ramsey filled in with positive results, so the former North Texas State star figures to be the backup again in '75. He'll get competition from John Hufnagel, who has been brought along slowly for two years, and rookie Mike Franckowiak of Central Michigan. Franckowiak, a 6-3, 220-pound bull, also is a placekicker and punter, which might mean a spot somewhere on the roster for him.

Running backs—Armstrong, in his second year away from the Purdue campus, gained more yardage (1407) than any other runner in the NFL. The 5-10, 196-pound Armstrong can run inside and out, can bull or outrun, and is just difficult to get down! In addition to his prodigious ball carrying, Armstrong caught 38 passes, ran back kickoffs and scored 12 touchdowns. Keyworth tallied 10 TDs on close-in blasts and added 374 yards (4.6 average) after taking over as the fullback when a Little-Armstrong combine failed. Keyworth, at 6-3, 230, is an ideal big back with good blocking talents. Little, who gained 312 yards and averaged just 2.7 per try, says this will be his last year and would like nothing better than to go out a winner (championship, that is). He'll always be Mr. Bronco to the Denver fans. Bobby Anderson, out all of '74 with a knee injury, returns as a backup for Keyworth. Vets Fran Lynch and Ollie Ross, plus Eric Penick, the Notre Dame star who missed most of his senior year with a broken lower leg, are in reserve. Keyworth's emergence last year was noteworthy since the Broncos traded Dawkins to the Giants and then lost Anderson in the period of a week.

Receivers—Moses and the versatile Billy Van Heusen, along with tight end Odoms and running back Armstrong, gave Johnson a variety of targets in 1974. Moses caught 34 passes and averaged 16.4 yards per reception while Van Heusen, also the team's punter, averaged 26.3 yards for each of his 16 receptions and scored four TDs. Still the most devastating pass catcher is Odoms, perhaps the best tight end in the NFL. He caught 42 passes, six for TDs, and blocked like a horse to gain near-unanimous All-Pro mention. Odoms is so good that Billy Masters, an accomplished tight end himself, didn't catch a single pass last year. The depth at the outside spots is questionable, since Jerry Simmons has been dealt to Atlanta and Otto Stowe to Los Angeles. Rookie Rick Upchurch, a running back at Minnesota, and Jack Dolbin, who had a good year with the Chicago Fire of the WFL, are the main hopes.

Offensive line—Little used to brag about his line and now Armstrong is touting the blockers in front of him. Mike Current, the veteran tackle who has started 98 straight games, was a member of both units. But the other tackle, Claudie Minor, stepped in as a rookie last year when Marv Montgomery failed to recover fully from a broken leg suffered in '73. Minor had his problems, but overall did well and now the job is his, with Montgomery back to challenge. Guards are plentiful and talented—Tom Lyons, Paul Howard, Mike Schnitker and ex-Lion Chuck Walton. Bobby Maples, the center, gained some All-Star status in

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	265	26	Yankton	5
11	Anderson, Bobby	RB	6-0	208	28	Colorado	5
	Andrews, Billy	LB	6-0	225	30	Southeast Louisiana	9
24	Armstrong, Otis	RB	5-10	196	24	Purdue	3
65	Arnold, LeFrancis	G	6-3	245	22	Oregon	1
87	Brown, Boyd	TE	6-4	216	23	Alcorn A&M	1
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	252	24	South Carolina State	3
54	Cindrich, Ralph	LB	6-1	230	26	Pittsburgh	4
76	Coleman, Steve	DE	6-4	252	24	Delaware State	2
53	Criter, Ken	LB	5-11	223	28	Wisconsin	7
74	Current, Mike	T	6-4	270	30	Ohio State	9
	Dolbin, Jack	WR	5-10	180	26	Wake Forest	1
55	Duranko, Pete	DT	6-2	250	30	Notre Dame	9
	Echols, Reggie	DB-WR	6-2	190	25	UCLA	1
86	Frazier, Marvin	WR	6-0	180	24	Cheney State	1
52	Gradishar, Randy	LB	6-3	233	23	Ohio State	1
63	Grant, John	DE	6-3	235	25	Southern California	3
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	25	Brigham Young	3
16	Hufnagel, John	QB	6-1	194	24	Penn State	2
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	220	24	Louisville	3
12	Johnson, Charley	QB	6-1	200	36	New Mexico State	15
26	Jones, Calvin	CB	5-7	169	24	Washington	3
72	Kampa, Bob	DT	6-4	245	24	California	3
32	Keyworth, Jon	RB	6-3	230	23	Colorado	1
44	Little, Floyd	RB	5-10	196	33	Syracuse	9
22	Lynch, Fran	RB	6-1	205	29	Hofstra	9
61	Lyons, Tom	G	6-2	230	27	Georgia	5
50	Maples, Bobby	C	6-3	250	32	Baylor	11
	Marx, Greg	DT	6-4	260	25	Notre Dame	2
81	Masters, Billy	TE	6-5	240	31	Louisiana State	9
56	May, Ray	LB	6-1	230	30	Southern California	9
71	Minor, Claudie	T	6-4	280	24	San Diego State	1
78	Montgomery, Marv	T	6-6	255	27	Southern California	5
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2	208	30	San Diego State	7
88	Odoms, Riley	TE	6-4	230	25	Houston	4
	Olsen, Phil	DT	6-5	265	27	Utah State	5
66	O'Malley, Jim	LB	6-1	230	24	Notre Dame	3
48	Pitts, John	S	6-4	218	30	Arizona State	9
10	Ramsey, Steve	QB	6-2	210	27	North Texas State	6
59	Rizzo, Joe	LB	6-1	220	23	Merchant Marine Acad.	1
30	Ross, Oliver	RB	6-0	210	26	Alabama A&M	3
46	Rowser, John	CB	6-1	190	31	Michigan	9
64	Schnitker, Mike	G	6-3	245	28	Colorado	7
	Sens, Mark	T	6-5	264	23	Colorado	1
75	Smith, Ed	DE	6-5	241	25	Colorado State	3
70	Smith, Paul	DT	6-3	256	30	New Mexico	7
36	Thompson, Bill	S	6-1	200	29	Maryland-E.S.	7
15	Turner, Jim	K	6-2	205	34	Utah State	12
42	Van Heusen, Bill	WR-P	6-1	200	28	Maryland	8
	Walton, Chuck	G	6-3	256	34	Iowa State	9

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Wright, Louie	17	DB	San Jose State
2.	Smith, Charles	43	DE	North Carolina Central
3.	Franckowiak, Mike	54	QB	Central Michigan
	from New York Giants			
	Mahalic, Drew	69	LB	Notre Dame
4.	Taylor, Steve	84	DB	Georgia
	from Kansas City			
	Upchurch, Rich	95	WR	Minnesota
5.	Rogers, Stan	107	T	Maryland
	from Atlanta			
	Carter, Rubin	121	DT	Miami
8.	Foley, Steve	199	QB	Tulane
9.	Williams, Roussell	225	DB	Arizona
10.	Engelhardt, Hank	240	C	Pacific
	from Kansas City			
	Haggerty, Steve	251	WR	Nevada-Las Vegas
12.	Walters, Harry	303	LB	Maryland
13.	Penick, Eric	329	RB	Notre Dame
14.	Arnold, Jerry	355	G	Oklahoma
15.	Shelton, Ken	381	TE	Virginia
16.	Bridges, Bubba	409	DT	Colorado
17.	Sherman, Lester	433	RB	Albany State

COACHES:
JOHN RALSTON, Max Coley, Joe Collier, Kay Dalton, Jerry Frei, Bob Gambold, Myrel Moore, Doc Urich.

his 11th season last fall. Things don't look too promising for a rookie, although Maryland's Stan Rogers, chosen on the fifth round, will get a good look at tackle and Hank Englehardt of Pacific should challenge LeFrancis Arnold for the backup center spot.

DEFENSE

Front four—Paul Smith appeared in parts of two games last year after rupturing an Achilles tendon, but his return brightens the defensive outlook in '75. The 6-3, 256-pounder is one of the top inside men in the game, when he's healthy. The other spots are manned by relative youngsters: the sometimes brilliant Lyle Alzado at right end and third-year men Barney Chavous at left end and John Grant at left tackle. The sack total dropped just four, from 36 to 32, but the rushing yardage mounted against the unit last year. Veteran Pete Duranko leads the backup brigade which also includes Merlin Olsen's younger brother Phil, and Marx, who sat out last year in a dispute with Atlanta officials over whether or not he could attend law school. In addition to Charlie Smith, veterans Bob Kampa (former Bill), Steve Coleman and Ed (still-another) Smith are presently seeking fulltime employment.

Linebackers—Youngsters Tom Jackson and Randy Gradishar on the outside and veteran Ray May in the middle gave the Broncos some good linebacking after all had settled into their positions. Jackson, in his second year out of Louisville, was named the club's defensive MVP and Ralston said, "I wouldn't trade Tom Jackson for any linebacker in the league." Gradishar, after a trial in the middle, was stationed on the strong side and the veteran May shifted into the important middle linebacking spot. Jim O'Malley, a three-year man, appears ready to battle May for a job, while Andrews, a sometimes starter for eight years in Cleveland, promising Joe Rizzo and rookie Drew Mahalic, a third-round choice, are outside hopefuls. Also on hand is Ken Criter, annually the best performer on the Bronco special units.

Secondary—Although allowing just 14 TD passes, an all-time Bronco low, the secondary was blamed for many of the Denver problems. So Wright, a 4.4 speedster who was outstanding in post-season games, was the first collegian added by the Broncos and Ellis, a onetime first-round pick, was obtained from Atlanta. Only Bill Thompson, an exceptional strong safety and kick returner, appears certain of his job. Wright could move in ahead of John Rowser at the left corner while Ellis, a free safety at Atlanta, might fit in there or at cornerback. Ralston would like to see the former Notre Dame at a corner, where he starred in college. That would put 5-7 Calvin Jones' job in jeopardy. John Pitts finished the season at free safety but he faces challenges from rookies Steve Taylor of Georgia and Steve Foley, the Tulane quarterback, as well as Ellis. Roussell Williams, a 4.5 man from Arizona, is a corner possibility, with Reggie Berry from San Diego.

Special teams—Veteran Jim Turner, with 11 of 21 field goals, faces a challenge from young Franckowiak as the Bronco placekicker. Turner may yield his kickoff chores, at any rate. Van Heusen slipped to a 40.3 punting average last year and he, too, may get some competition from the multi-talented Franckowiak. Thompson handled the bulk of the returns last year, averaging 25.0 on kickoffs and 13.5 on punts. Armstrong, Greer and Little are others with kick return experience, while Upchurch, who had a 100-yard return versus arch-rival Wisconsin last year, and Lester Sherman, a 5-8½ speedster who averaged 30.1 per kickoff runback at Albany State, are rookie candidates.

No. 77—Lyle Alzado

No. 52—Randy Gradishar

No. 57—Tom Jackson

1974 Season Results
DENVER (7-6-1)

10	*Los Angeles	17
35	*Pittsburgh	35
3	Washington	30
17	Kansas City	14
33	*New Orleans	17
27	*San Diego	7
21	Cleveland	23
17	*Oakland	28
17	Baltimore	6
34	*Kansas City	42
20	Oakland	17
31	Detroit	27
37	*Houston	14
0	San Diego	17

* DENOTES HOME GAME

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

HEAD COACH PAUL WIGGIN

The Statute of Liberty still resides in New York Harbor, and the Golden Gate Bridge still heralds entrance into the Bay Area. But at least one American landmark has disappeared, the squat one which, with quarterback chart rolled in hand, used to walk the sidelines at Kansas City Chief football games.

Hank Stram and his Offense of the '70s have passed into Chiefs' history following a 5-9 season last year. To replace the only Chief coach ever, owner Lamar Hunt brought in Paul Wiggin, erstwhile Cleveland defensive end and San Francisco assistant coach. Wiggin's task is plain and simple: return the Chiefs to the prominence they enjoyed as Super Bowl winners only a few seasons ago.

The 40-year-old coach immediately started versing both his coaching staff (most of which is new, too) and players in the terminology he plans to use. One word he wants to eliminate from the Chiefs' vocabulary is "mediocrity."

"You can find that anywhere, in a newspaper office, at IBM, in the government, anywhere," Wiggin said. "But if we can eliminate mediocrity on the Kansas City Chiefs, if we can play with pride and strive for excellence, the fans won't walk out of the stadium feeling they've wasted their money. We intend to give them something to cheer, whether it's a victory, or an effort."

Wiggin realizes he's coming into a situation which has deteriorated in recent years, but also knows his squad is not destitute, either. "We have to reestablish the winning tradition," he said. "We have to make this team first a winner, then a contender, and finally a champion."

The Chiefs have gone the complete opposite route since their Super Bowl win over Minnesota in 1970. Stram, in his farewell speech, blamed much of the problem on his quarterback situation. He claimed none of his younger quarterbacks ever made the advancement necessary to take over for the still effective but aging Len Dawson.

Wiggin disagrees. He said a number of teams looked to trade him a quarterback in the off-season, but all wanted a few of his regular players in return. "They must think our situation is a lot worse than I think it is," he said.

Nevertheless the coach must make a decision whether to stay with Dawson, who will be entering his 19th pro season, or switch to Mike Livingston. Or maybe Dean Carlson. Or maybe David Jaynes. Or maybe Tony Adams. Or maybe make that trade. It's imperative Wiggin settle the quarterbacking before he runs into the problems Stram encountered in recent seasons.

While quarterback may be a problem, middle linebacker won't, although it looked for awhile like Wiggin would have to find a replacement for Willie Lanier. But the new coach, in one of his first coups, coaxed the 30-year-old All Pro out of retirement and into a three-year contract, forestalling a defensive collapse.

There are other woes in the Chiefs' teepee but they are minor compared to the problems Wiggin must solve at the glamor spot of his offensive unit. Still he couldn't help himself too much in the college draft (the Chiefs had just 11 picks, and no first-round choice) so he has decided to use a formula which helped build some of the new NFL powers, Buffalo and New England as examples. Wiggin has invited some 50 free agents to camp, hoping to find a few who will help establish him as the new landmark at Arrowhead Stadium.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—The 40-year-old Dawson has been plagued by all sorts of injuries in recent years and obviously hasn't too much left to his semi-brilliant pro career. In 11 games last year he completed a healthy 59 percent of his passes but threw for only seven touchdowns and had 13 intercepted. His young, rebuilt offensive line didn't give him all that much time to throw, and as a result he was dumped 25 times. Livingston, 30, was only 47 percent accurate with four TDs, 10 interceptions and 10 sacks, not a particularly impressive year for the man who at times has flashed the form expected

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 16—Len Dawson

No. 31—Jeff Kinney

of a regular NFL signal caller. Carlson, 25, played well in the last game of the season vs. Minnesota; Jaynes, 23, threw just two passes in his first year away from the Kansas campus; and Adams, 24, was one of three Most Valuable Players in the World Football League. The former Utah State star, however, flunked a previous trial with the Chargers. He has more maneuverability than the others, which may give him an advantage.

Running backs—Two rookies, first-round pick Woody Green and free agent Cleophus Miller, wound up as the starters last year. Green, injured for parts of the campaign, demonstrated his All-American collegiate style when healthy and led the team with 509 yards, and added 26 receptions. Miller, a kick returner most of the year, added 184 yards and averaged 4.6 per try. Returning from an injury is steady Ed Podolak, who gained 386 yards, caught a team-high 43 passes, and ran back punts before going down late in the year. Other vets are Jeff Kinney (249 yards), who should make a bona fide bid for a starting job in this, his fourth year, and Willie Ellison (114), injured most of last season. Top rookie prospects are fullback Morris LaGrand of Tampa and halfback James Rackley of Florida A&M.

Receivers—At one time, Otis Taylor was the most feared pass receiver in the NFL. His 6-3, 215-pound frame and blazing speed made him a terror against all types of coverage. In recent years, however, Taylor's downtrend has mirrored his team's regression. After a pair of 57-catch seasons in '71 and '72, the 33-year-old Taylor dropped to 34 receptions in '73 and 24 last season, when a leg injury limited him to 10 games. A return by Taylor, and the emergence of a tight end, would help the Chief passing game immensely. Without Taylor, the KC outside men are merely adequate: Larry Brunson, Barry Pearson, Andy Hamilton and Elmo Wright, who has never lived up to expectations. The tight end picture takes on a new aspect in Elmore Stephens, the Chiefs' top draft pick (second round) who played at run-oriented Kentucky. He caught 27 passes in three years but Wiggin thinks he has potential as a receiver. Gary Butler, who appeared to be taking over in '73, missed all of last season with a knee injury, leaving the 1974 job again to 6-10 Morris Stroud, who now has been traded to Houston.

Offensive line—Charlie Getty and Jim Nicholson, two young tackles, represented the first real move at revitalizing the creaking Chiefs' offensive front. Both made mistakes but played well overall after replacing the traded Jim Tyrer and injured Dave Hill. George Daney took over for the retired Mo Moorman at right guard but now he faces a challenge from Tom Condon, a rookie last season. Ed Budde, who'll be 35 this fall, had a solid season at left guard and Jack Rudnay was his usual stalwart self at center. Depth is plentiful and versatile with tackle-guard Francis Peay, tackle-guard-center Wayne Walton and center Tom Humphrey. Hill has retired, but draft picks Wayne Hoffman of Oklahoma, a tight end-tackle, and guard Dale Hegland of Minnesota are the challengers.

DEFENSE

Front four—This could be one of Kansas City's top areas, despite the advanced ages of tackle Buck Bucha-

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
48	Allen, Nate	CB	5-10	170	27	Texas Southern	5
	Atkins, Dave	RB	6-1	210	26	Texas EL Paso	2
	Avery, Ken	LB	6-1	227	30	So. Mississippi	9
78	Bell, Bobby	LB	6-4	228	35	Minnesota	13
84	Briggs, Robert	DE	6-4	258	29	Heidelberg	7
83	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	26	Colorado	2
86	Buchanan, Buck	DT	6-7	270	35	Grambling	13
71	Budde, Ed	G	6-5	265	35	Michigan State	13
82	Butler, Gary	TE	6-3	235	24	Rice	3
9	Carlson, Dean	QB	6-3	210	25	Iowa State	2
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	240	23	Boston College	2
60	Daney, George	G	6-4	240	29	Texas-El Paso	8
16	Dawson, Len	QB	6-0	190	40	Purdue	19
69	DeBernardi, Fred	DE	6-6	250	26	Texas-El Paso	2
76	Drougas, Tom	T	6-4	267	25	Oregon	4
24	Ellison, Willie	RB	6-2	210	30	Texas Southern	9
77	Getty, Charlie	T	6-4	260	23	Penn State	2
56	Graham, Tom	LB	6-2	235	25	Oregon	4
27	Green, Woody	RB	6-1	205	24	Arizona State	2
80	Hamilton, Andy	WR	6-3	190	25	Louisiana State	3
52	Humphrey, Tom	C	6-6	260	25	Abilene Christian	2
12	Jaynes, Dave	QB	6-2	212	23	Kansas	2
32	Jones, Doug	CB-S	6-2	202	24	San Fernando Valley	3
46	Kearney, Jim	S	6-4	206	32	Prairie View	11
74	Keating, Tom	DT	6-2	247	33	Michigan	12
31	Kinney, Jeff	RB	6-2	215	26	Nebraska	4
	Kratzer, Dan	WR	6-3	194	26	Missouri Valley	2
63	Lanier, Willie	LB	6-1	245	30	Morgan State	9
10	Livingston, Mike	QB	6-4	212	30	Southern Methodist	8
	Lohmeyer, John	DE	6-4	229	24	Emporia State	2
51	Lynch, Jim	LB	6-1	235	30	Notre Dame	9
40	Marsalis, Jim	CB	5-11	194	30	Tennessee State	7
79	Matuszak, John	DT	6-8	275	24	Tampa	3
30	Miller, Cleophus	RB	5-11	202	24	Arkansas AM&N	2
70	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	261	25	Michigan State	2
47	Osley, Willie	CB-S	6-0	195	24	Illinois	2
85	Pearson, Barry	WR	5-11	185	25	Northwestern	4
75	Peay, Francis	T	6-5	250	31	Missouri	10
14	Podolak, Ed	RB	6-1	205	28	Iowa	7
	Polen, Bruce	DB	6-0	180	24	William Penn	1
15	Reardon, Kerry	CB	5-11	180	26	Iowa	5
	Roman, Nick	DE	6-3	245	27	Ohio St.	7
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-3	240	28	Northwestern	6
20	Sensibaugh, Mike	S	5-11	192	26	Ohio State	5
3	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	187	33	Montana State	9
89	Taylor, Otis	WR	6-3	215	33	Prairie View	11
43	Thomas, Bill	RB	6-2	225	26	Boston College	4
	Thomas, Charlie	RB	5-6	177	26	Tenn. St.	1
18	Thomas, Emmitt	CB	6-2	192	32	Bishop	10
50	Thornbladh, Bob	LB	6-1	220	23	Michigan	2
81	Upshaw, Marvin	DE	6-4	260	29	Trinity	8
72	Walton, Wayne	T	6-5	255	27	Abilene Christian	4
54	Werner, Clyde	LB	6-3	230	28	Washington	6
44	Wilson, Jerrel	P	6-2	222	34	Southern Mississippi	13
17	Wright, Elmo	WR	6-0	190	26	Houston	5
99	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	285	26	William Penn	5

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
2.	Stephens, Elmore	34	TE	Kentucky
3.	Walker, Cornelius	59	DT	Rice
6.	La Grand, Morris	137	RB	Tampa
	Wasick, Dave from San Francisco	139	LB	San Jose State
	Hoffman, Wayne from San Diego thru Washington	189	T	Oklahoma
11.	Hegland, Dale	268	G	Minnesota
12.	Rackley, James	293	RB	Florida A&M
13.	Snider, John	318	LB	Stanford
14.	Moshier, Gene	346	G	Vanderbilt
16.	Peterson, Mark	396	DE	Illinois
17.	Bulino, Mike	424	DB	Pittsburgh

COACHES:

PAUL WIGGIN, Tom Bettis, Vince Costello, Chet Franklin, Steve Ortmayer, Tom Pratt, Bob Schnelker, Joe Spencer.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

nan (35) and top reserve Tom Keating (32). The acquisition of John Matuszak during last season gave the Chiefs a mammoth front: the 6-8, 275-pound Matsuzak, who shifts to end for 1975; the 6-7, 270-pound Buchanan, a slowing but still capable performer; the 6-6, 285-pound Wilbur Young, brilliant at times; and the "tiny" 6-4, 260-pound Marv Upshaw, who moves inside in a trade of positions with Matuszak. The unit didn't play up to potential last year, sacking QBs only 25 times, but at least the promise is there. Besides Keating, the veteran support is provided by two ex-Cleveland ends, Bob Briggs and Nick Roman, plus shot-putter Fred DeBernardi. Rookies who'll be heard from include Rice noseguard Cornelius Walker, super-quick at 6-1, 245 pounds, and San Jose State's Dave Wasick, who may get a trial at linebacker, too.

Linebackers—With Lanier returning, the longtime trio of Bobby Bell, Lanier and Jim Lynch remains intact, and Lynch won't have to shift into the middle. The unit is experienced, but Bell is getting along in years and it may be he, rather than Lanier, who needs the replacing. Clyde Werner, who has been around a few seasons, and former Bengal Ken Avery are the chief outside linebacking candidates. The eventual replacement for Lanier could be Tom Graham, who held down the middle spot for Denver for a year and a half before being dealt to the Chiefs last season. Other linebackers primarily are special teamers Al Palewicz and Bob Thornbladh, and other than Wasick only one rookie, John Snider of Stanford, was selected in the draft.

Secondary—With the lack of a pass rush, the Chiefs finished next to last against the pass in the NFL. That all but wiped out a fantastic season for right cornerback Emmitt Thomas, who intercepted 12 passes (more than the Cincinnati and Baltimore team totals) and rated All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors. Nate Allen replaced Jim Marsalis as the other corner while strong safety Jim Kearney and free safety Mike Sensibaugh retained their posts. Sparked by Thomas, KC led the NFL in interceptions with 28 but allowed 190 yards per game through the air and permitted 22 passing TDs. Prospects for change are minimal, although Marsalis and handyman Kerry Reardon are back and youngsters Willie Osley and Doug Jones have had some experience. Best of the rookies could be free agent Eugene Hunter of Fort Valley State, listed high on some scouting reports but mysteriously overlooked completely in the draft.

Special teams—Jerrel Wilson had a busy year (83 punts) while Jan Stenerud took it easy (24 field goal attempts) in '74, and Wiggin would like to see their use frequency reversed in '75. Wilson retained his lofty status among the AFC punters with a 41.7 average, placing him second behind Oakland's Ray Guy. Stenerud demonstrated his toe still was atuned to the goal posts by connecting on 17 of his 24 three-point tries. Many of the Chief vets have had kick return experience, among them Podolak, Miller, Brunson, Reardon and Green, while Rackley, the Florida A&M star, further increases the corps.

PHOTO BY ROD HANNA

No. 58–Jack Rudnay

No. 27—Woody Green

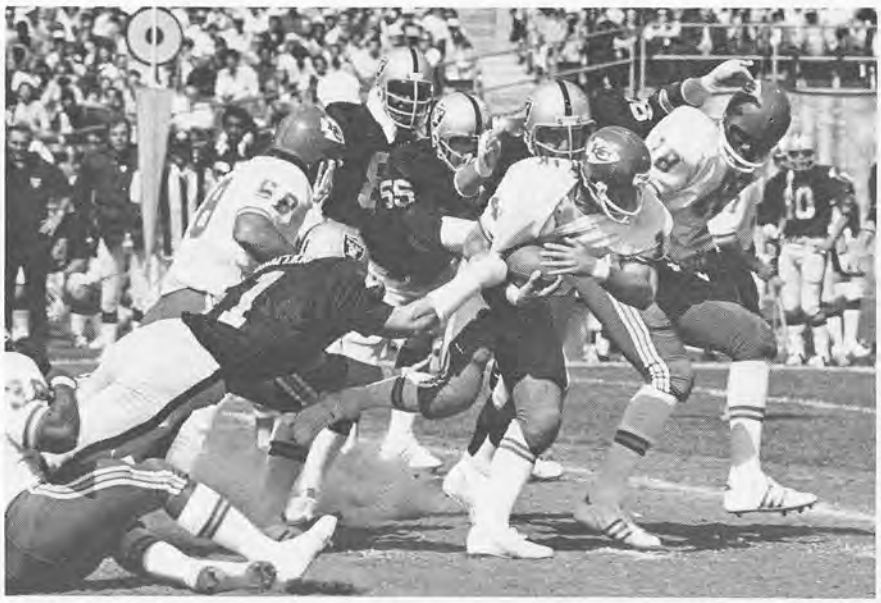


PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No.14—Ed Podolak

1974 Season Results

KANSAS CITY (5-9-0)

24	*N.Y. Jets	16
7	Oakland	27
17	Houston	7
14	*Denver	17
24	*Pittsburgh	34
3	Miami	9
24	San Diego	14
27	*N.Y. Giants	33
7	*San Diego	14
42	Denver	34
6	Cincinnati	33
17	St. Louis	13
6	*Oakland	7
15	*Minnesota	35

* DENOTES HOME GAME

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

HEAD COACH TOMMY PROTHRO

Tommy Prothro spent six weeks of his off-season at his alma mater, Duke University, attending a weight-reducing clinic. The San Diego Charger coach hoped to trim some 50 pounds from his 280-pound frame. The idea came after club president Gene Klein issued a two-part order to his coach.

The first part was to lose the weight. The second was to stop smoking. Nowhere in the mandate was there a mention of winning more football games in 1975.

Perhaps Klein didn't wish to make the pressure understood in the coaching profession a public issue. Or perhaps the president already was pleased with the work Prothro has done in his one season with the Chargers. He should be.

Prothro stepped into an almost impossible situation last year, and despite problems of his own, guided San Diego to a 5-9 season. Four of those victories came in the second half of the season, and the Chargers will enter the 1975 campaign with a carry-over two-game winning streak.

An excellent rookie crop had a lot to do with Prothro's success, especially in the latter half of the season. Now, entering his second year, the coach has a group of collegians potentially better than last year's contingent. As a matter of fact, the Chargers may have had the best draft in the National Football League last winter.

Not surprisingly the emphasis was on the defense, with the first seven choices joining that unit. At least four of those should be in the starting lineup by the time the Chargers tee it up against the World Champion Steelers in the first regular-season contest.

Despite the encouraging outlook, Prothro is being cautious. "If the rookies from what we consider an excellent draft develop quickly and our young veterans improve greatly, we can be contenders," he said. "But realistically you can't count on it. Fans will enjoy watching our team. I just hope they don't anticipate too much too quickly."

Prothro brought in 24 new players last year in improving a 2-11-1 aggregation still shaking from stiff drug-use penalties imposed by the NFL. Of the 24, 14 were rookies and one, running back Don Woods, wound up being the best first-year man in the NFL.

Woods made his impact with yardage, 1162 to be exact, but this year's magna cum laudae will be piling up tackles, sacks, interceptions and other defensive pluses. Heading the group are two linemen who should move right into a front four which last year used the "hands off" policy against opposing passers. The Chargers recorded only 18 sacks, far and away the lowest total in the league.

Gary "Big Hands" Johnson, the No. 1 pick from Grambling, almost tripled that total by himself with 49 sackings his senior year. Louie "Bigger Hands" Kelcher, a second-round choice from SMU, had 22 tackles behind the line of scrimmage in his final Mustang campaign.

Speedy Mike Williams of LSU, another first-round selection, and the opportunistic Mike Fuller of Auburn, chosen on the third round, will be looking for work in the secondary. In between are linebackers Fred Dean of Louisiana Tech (second round) and Ken Bernich of Auburn (fourth round), two other well-endowed youngsters.

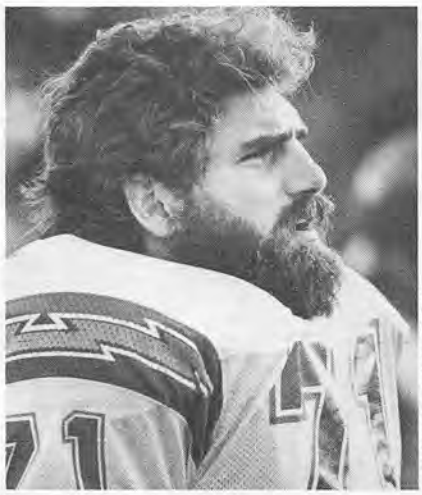


PHOTO BY JOHN E. BIEVER

No. 71—Pete Lazetich

No. 33—Don Woods

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

San Diego finished dead last in NFL defense last year, and Prothro obviously wants his team to shed some of that yardage allowed the same way he jettisoned his extra weight.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—It should be an interesting training camp, quarterbackwise, for Prothro since he'll have not one but two young passers battling for the starting job. Dan Fouts, who'll be entering his third pro season, was the regular for 11 games last year before he suffered an injury. So rookie Jesse Freitas stepped in and directed victories over Chicago and Denver in the final two contests. Neither challenged for the passing title with his final stats, but each demonstrated the ability to play winning football. Fouts, for instance, directed a 98-yard final-period drive to beat Cincinnati and passed for 333 yards against Cleveland. Watching the youngsters battle will be Don Horn, the ex-San Diego State phenom who was limited to holding for placements last season.

Running backs—Woods was a $100 bargain pickup from the Packers, who obviously didn't need his talents—at least at the time. The 6-1, 210-pound former New Mexico quarterback missed almost three full games yet still managed his plus-1000-yard season and an impressive 5.1 average per carry. He caught 26 passes and scored 10 touchdowns. Woods thinks he'll continue to improve, too, with experience. Prothro will team his gem with Bo Matthews, last year's No. 1 choice who came on at the close of his rookie season and wound up with 328 yards. Matthews, at 235 pounds, is an excellent blocker. Behind the starters are Glen Bonner, a free agent surprise last year, and Jim Harrison, the ex-Bear who in effect will be replacing the disgruntled Cid Edwards, who was shipped to Chicago. Special teamers Bob Thomas and Tommy Thompson and vets Clint Jones and Reece Morrison, both out all year with injuries, make this a well-padded area. Of the rookies, seventh-rounder Ricky Young of Jackson State has the best chance of cracking the unit.

Receivers—Veteran Gary Garrison continues as one of the NFL's premier receivers, although his publicity rarely matches his ability. In his ninth season Garrison gathered in 41 passes for 785 yards and five touchdowns, the eighth time he has exceeded 40 receptions in a season. The Ghost now has 375 career receptions. His runningmate could be Harrison Davis, another ex-college quarterback who as a rookie last year caught 18 passes. With Jerry Le Vias now returning to the Houston Oilers, veterans Jim Beirne, Jubilee Dunbar and Joe Sweet, plus rookies John Car-

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
59	Anthony, Charles	LB	6-1	230	23	Southern California	2
79	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4	270	32	Jackson State	8
40	Beauchamp, Joe	S	6-0	188	31	Iowa State	10
85	Beirne, Jim	WR	6-2	206	29	Purdue	8
73	Boatwright, Bon	DT	6-5	262	23	Oklahoma State	2
21	Bonner, Glen	RB	6-2	202	23	Washington	2
78	Brown, Bob	DT	6-5	290	35	Arkansas A&M	10
	Brown, Booker	OT	6-1	268	23	USC	1
	Clark, Ron	G	6-1	235	23	Illinois St.	1
46	Colbert, Danny	S	5-11	167	24	Tulsa	2
	Cotton, Craig	TE	6-3	225	28	Youngstown	6
87	Davis, Harrison	WR	6-4	219	23	Virginia	2
52	Douglas, Jay	C	6-6	260	24	Memphis State	3
86	Dunbar, Jubilee	WR	6-0	196	28	Southern	3
39	Dunlap, Len	CB	6-2	198	26	North Texas State	5
	Flanagan, Ed	C	6-3	253	31	Purdue	11
44	Fletcher, Chris	S	5-10	182	27	Temple	6
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	193	24	Oregon	3
17	Freitas, Jesse	QB	6-1	203	23	San Diego State	2
27	Garrison, Gary	WR	6-1	195	31	San Diego State	10
54	Gersbach, Carl	LB	6-1	230	27	West Chester, Pa.	6
50	Goode, Don	LB	6-2	234	24	Kansas	2
69	Gordon, Ira	G	6-3	265	28	Kansas State	6
82	Grannell, Dave	TE	6-4	230	23	Arizona State	2
	Hamm, Gary	WR	6-2	190	24	Cal Lutheran	1
34	Harrison, Jim	RB	6-4	238	26	Missouri	5
23	Hoey, George	CB	5-10	180	28	Michigan	5
24	Howard, Bob	CB	6-2	177	31	San Diego State	9
	Johnson, Benny	CB	5-11	182	27	J.C. Smith	5
26	Jones, Clint	RB	6-0	205	30	Michigan State	8
71	Lazetich, Pete	DE	6-3	245	25	Stanford	4
	Magrum, Bud	DT	6-4	225	26	Colorado	1
65	Markovich, Mark	G	6-5	256	22	Penn State	2
41	Matthews, Bo	RB	6-4	230	23	Colorado	2
53	Myrtle, Chip	LB	6-2	225	30	Maryland	8
	Olejniczak, Mark	QB	6-3	212	23	Wisconsin	6
76	Owens, Terry	T	6-6	260	31	Jacksonville State	10
29	Partee, Dennis	K	6-1	209	26	Southern Methodist	8
57	Rice, Floyd	LB	6-3	223	26	Alcorn A&M	5
	Scarber, Sam	RB	6-2	235	25	New Mexico	2
74	Rowe, Dave	DT	6-7	265	30	Penn State	9
89	Stewart, Wayne	TE	6-7	230	28	California	6
	Sweet, Joe	WR	6-2	196	27	Tennessee State	4
77	Teerlinck, John	DT	6-5	245	24	Western Illinois	2
35	Thomas, Bob	RB	5-10	202	27	Arizona State	5
38	Thompson, Tommy	RB	6-1	205	24	Southern Illinois	2
75	Tipton, Dave	DE	6-6	240	26	Stanford	5
68	Vertefeuille, Brian	T	6-3	252	24	Idaho State	2
70	Washington, Russ	T	6-7	289	29	Missouri	8
15	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	210	25	California	3
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	256	28	North Carolina Central	6
47	Williams, Sam	CB	6-2	192	23	California	2
33	Woods, Don	RB	6-1	210	24	New Mexico	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Johnson, Gary	8	DT	Grambling
	Williams, Mike	22	DB	Louisiana State
	from Washington			
2.	Kelcher, Louis	30	DT	Southern Methodist
	from Cleveland			
	Dean, Fred	33	LB	Louisiana Tech
	Fuller, Mike	73	DB	Auburn
	from Los Angeles thru Chicago			
	Bernich, Ken	101	LB	Auburn
	from Oakland			
5.	Nosbusch, Kevin	111	DT	Notre Dame
	Waddell, Charles	125	TE	North Carolina
	from Washington thru Los Angeles and Buffalo			
6.	Carroll, John	134	WR	Oklahoma
	from Cleveland			
	Shields, Billy	136	T	Georgia Tech
7.	Young, Ricky	164	RB	Jackson State
	Collier, Barry	203	T	Georgia
	from Washington			
	Peretta, Ralph	206	G	Purdue
	from Oakland			
9.	Keller, Larry	214	LB	Houston
10.	Bradley, Otha	242	DT	So. California
11.	Phason, Vince	267	DB	Arizona
	McBee, Ike	284	WR	San Jose State
	from Oakland			
12.	Dahl, Jerry	292	LB	North Dakota State
13.	Demmerle, Pete	320	WR	Notre Dame
	Printers, Glen	335	RB	Southern Colorado State
	from Oakland			
14.	Barnett, Reggie	345	DB	Notre Dame
15.	Roush, John	370	G	Oklahoma
16.	Salvestrini, Chip	398	G	Yankton, S.D.
17.	Jeffrey, Neal	423	QB	Baylor

COACHES:
TOMMY PROTHRO, Dick Coury, John David Crow, George Dickson, Earnel Durden, Rudy Feldman, Bobb McKittrick, Howard Mudd, Jackie Simpson.

No. 14—Dan Fouts

No. 41—Bo Matthews

PHOTO BY JOHN E. BIEVER

No. 78—Bob Brown

roll, an all-around performer from Oklahoma, speedy Ike McBee and Notre Dame All-American Pete Demmerle provide plenty of reserve strength. Tight end could be reshuffled after Wayne Stewart, Gary Parris and Dave Grannell took turns there last season. Rookie Charles Waddell (6-5, 233), an exceptional athlete who also played basketball at North Carolina, and journeyman Craig Cotton, who toiled in the WFL last year, are the new hopes.

Offensive line—Prothro's pride and joy. Few units ever have a highlight film based on their performances, but the Chargers' flick, "Year of the Unknown Soldiers," centered around the up-front men. There will be one change in 1975, with center Ed Flanagan, who played out his option in Detroit and signed in San Diego, replacing Carl Mauck, who was traded to Houston. Tackles Russ Washington and Terry Owens, and guards Doug Wilkerson and Ira Gordon combined with Mauck to allow just 23 sacks and blocked well enough on the run to make the Chargers the eighth best ground team in the NFL. Booker Brown, who played in the WFL last year, joins the reserve crew which also includes tackle Brian Vertefeuille, guard Mark Markovich and center Jay Douglas. Tackle Billy Shields of Georgia Tech leads the rookies.

DEFENSE

Front four—Johnson (6-2, 250), who should take over a regular spot at end, is rated by Grambling coach Eddie Robinson as the best of his long line of defensive linemen. Big Hands had 136 tackles as a senior, not including those he made in gaining Defensive MVP honors in both the East-West Game and Senior Bowl. Kelcher is immense (6-5, 270) with a 16½ ring size(!) and hands "I have trouble puttin' in my pockets." He should settle in at a tackle spot. The other half of the front will be made up of vets Coy Bacon, who had eight of last year's 18 sacks, and Dave Rowe, who had four sacks and an equal number of blocked kicks. That would leave big Bob Brown and Dave Tipton, starters last year, in the reserve fight with vets Pete Lazetich, John Teerlinck and Bob Boatwright. Kevin Nosbusch, one of three Charger draftees from Notre Dame, and Otha Bradley of USC are other rookie challengers. Nosbusch could surprise if he has recovered from off-season knee surgery.

Linebackers—Rookies Charles Anthony, a low draft choice, and Don Goode, a high selection, plus young Floyd Rice comprised the unit at the close of last season. Anthony led the team in tackles with 87 but now faces the challenge of Dean, a collegiate down linemen with 4.55 speed and 392 career tackles, and Bernich, not as fast as Dean but extremely agile and tough. Goode should hold his spot for a long while and Rice, a pickup from the Oilers, surprised pleasantly with 83 tackles and three interceptions. There's a host of journeyman backups, including Carl Gersbach, Chip Myrtle, Jeff Staggs and Fred Forsberg, all of whom were starters at one time or another during their careers. Larry Keller of Houston and Jerry Dahl of North Dakota State, two collegiate defensive ends, also will get a go at linebacking trials.

Secondary—Mike Williams, with 4.5 speed, exceptional leaping ability, and a toughness required for pass coverage, will get a good look at cornerback where veteran Bobby Howard and Sam Williams, a surprise rookie a year ago, are the incumbents. Fuller, smallish at 5-9½, 188, will challenge free safety Joe Beauchamp, who had just one interception last year. Most secure of the returnees is strong safety Chris Fletcher, who led the team with four intercepts. The veteran backups are plentiful here, too, with corners Len Dunlap and George Hoey and safeties Maurice Tyler and Danny Colbert. But long looks will be given safety Vince Phason of Arizona and corner Reggie Barnett, another of the ex-Golden Domers trying to make it in sunny Southern California.

Specialists—While the Chargers were potent moving the ball, they had trouble finishing off drives with points. Placekicker Ray Wersching connected on just five of 11 field goal tries while Dennis Partee, the punter, was just one-of-five on three-pointers. Unless Carroll, a kicker at times during his Oklahoma career, is given a shot, Prothro will go with the same placement men in '75. Wersching, in his defense, was an impressive three-of-four from the 40-49-yard range. Partee averaged 40 yards exactly per punt and is a veteran performer. Carroll, again, is a possibility here. Colbert, LeVias, Thompson and Hoey are the veteran return men, but rookies could work their way in. Among the prospects are Fuller, fourth in the nation in punt returns as a senior (16.7) after finishing second as a junior (19.1); wide receiver McBee; draft choice Glen Printers, an RB-DB from Southern Colorado who averaged 44.6 yards for five kickoff returns last year; and maybe even Carroll, who can do just about anything.

1974 Season Results
SAN DIEGO (5-9-0)

14	Houston		21
20	Cincinnati		17
21	*Miami		28
7	*Philadelphia		13
10	*Oakland		14
7	Denver		27
14	*Kansas City		24
36	*Cleveland		35
14	Kansas City		24
10	Oakland		17
0	Green Bay		34
14	N.Y. Jets		27
28	*Chicago		21
17	*Denver		0

* DENOTES HOME GAME

MAIMI DOLPHINS

HEAD COACH DON SHULA

After two years, the Dolphins returned to being just one of the guys last season, one of those other 25 teams which look forward to getting a shot at the Super Bowl champs next year. Miami did make a gallant and near-successful bid to win its third straight championship, and only a few miracle catches by the Oakland Raiders prevented the Dolphins from moving into the AFC championship game.

Miami accomplished all this despite wading through a season of defection and injury. It is a tribute to coach Don Shula and his many talented performers that the club just didn't disappear into the Everglades after the World Football League signings, and injuries which totally disrupted one of the best offensive lines in creation.

Now Shula faces another challenge. The impending loss of Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick and Paul Warfield becomes effective this season. With the departure of the three, particularly Csonka, we must signal the end of the Miami Dolphins as we knew them.

Csonka, who should totally destroy WFL defensive lines, did a pretty good job on the NFL models the last few years. Warfield, despite nagging injuries, always was there for the big catch. And Kiick, in between his declarations of unhappiness, was a competent back who always made that clutch third-down reception coming out of the backfield.

The WFL signing of the trio was the initial shock which shook the Dolphins off the championship trail. Other tremors followed.

Guard Bob Kuechenberg and cornerback Tim Foley both signed with the WFL, although both have escaped and rejoined the Dolphins. Nick Buoniconti entertained the idea. So did Doug Swift, Garo Yepremian, Manny Fernandez and Jim Mandich. A full-scale mutiny appeared possible.

After most of the Dolphins came to their senses, and remained in Miami, the second series of tremors srruck. Injury after injury slowed the development in training camp, already shortened by the players' strike. Some players, like Fernandez, Csonka and Mercury Morris, never did reach full speed during the season.

And that offensive line, just a beauty to watch when healthy, became anything but that. Left tackle Wayne Moore was slow in recovering from knee surgery. His replacement, Doug Crusan, broke his leg in the season's opener. Kuechenberg was shifted to tackle for awhile. Tom Funchess, a journeyman, was brought in and he, too, suffered a knee injury.

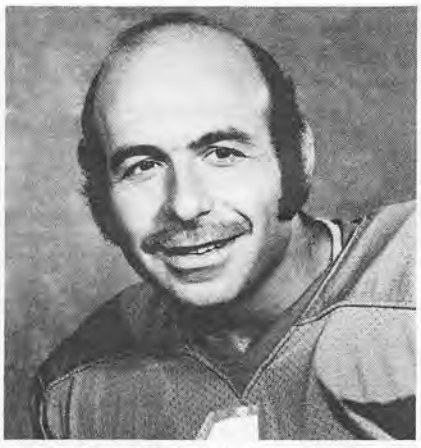
Still, Miami lost only three regular-season games, a surprise opening setback to New England and three-point defeats to the Redskins and Jets. And who'll ever forget Clarence Davis' catch of Ken Stabler's desperation pass which beat them in the playoffs?

Now Shula must go to work to replace Csonka and Warfield. He must

No. 75—Manny Fernandez

No. 12—Bob Griese

No. 73—Norm Evans



No. 1—Garo Yepremian

reestablish the Dolphin supremacy of the recent past. To do the latter, he has a young veteran squad again augmented by a good group of draftees. And he has his own abilities as a coach, abilities unmatched in the game today.

"We'll all have to work a little harder to make up for our losses," he says. "And if that's what we have to do, that's what we'll do."

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Bob Griese ranked eighth in the NFL in passing, completing 60 percent of his tosses, 16 for TDs. He was at his best in the playoff shoot-out with Stabler. The 29-year-old star had to adjust to a new leading receiver in rookie Nat Moore, and spent extra time avoiding defensive linemen who had slipped through the unsettled line (he was sacked 27 times). Back for a 20th year is Earl Morrall, who was 17 of 27 last year as Griese's sub. Don Strock, the rifle-armed one from Virginia Tech, should be ready to share some of the load after two years as a watcher. Lone rookie candidate is Jack Graham of Colorado State, who also excels at the game of golf.

Running backs—There's no way, really, to replace Csonka. But Shula took a step towards filling Kiick's spikes when he obtained Donny Anderson from St. Louis. Anderson is an adequate runner, good blocker, and excellent pass catcher coming out of the backfield. The other veteran runners include Mercury Morris, Ben Malone and Don Nottingham. Morris played in just five games because of his own knee problems, and gained 214 yards. Meanwhile, Malone blossomed as a rookie with 479 yards, a 4.1 average, and three TDs on 117 rushes. Fireplug Nottingham chipped in with 273 yards and eight scores on just 66 carries.

Among the rookies who'll be tested is the exciting Fred Solomon, the Tampa quarterback selected on the second round. Solomon averaged 5.9 per rush in college and at 5-11, 181, might figure as a wide receiver, too. Another draft hopeful is Stan Winfrey, also selected on the second round after gaining 1610 yards for Arkansas State. Winfrey is a bigger back at 5-11, 223, and could wind up playing a lot of fullback for Miami.

Receivers—Nat Moore, drafted particularly to help out on kick returns, wound up the lifesaver at wide receiver after both Warfield and Marlin Briscoe went out with hamstring pulls. The 5-9½, 180-pounder from Florida grabbed 37 passes for a 16.4 average per catch. Briscoe has since been dealt to the Cards for Anderson, and Warfield, who caught 27 passes in nine games, is a WFLer. That leaves some spots to be filled. Solomon, if he doesn't make it as a runner, could be a strong challenger here because of his speed and niftiness. Another rookie with promise is Morris Owens of Arizona State, who averaged nearly 20 yards for each of his 84 college receptions. Still around, of course, is the too-slow Howard Twilley, who grabbed 24 passes last year. Jim Mandich is in possession of the tight end job after a 33-catch, six-TD season in '74. Behind him are the aging Marv Fleming and Jim McFarland, also obtained from St. Louis.

Offensive line—With Wayne Moore and Crusan healthy, and Kuechenberg

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
40	Anderson, Dick	S	6-2	196	29	Colorado	8
49	Babb, Charlie	S	6-0	190	25	Memphis State	4
82	Baker, Melvin	WR	6-0	192	25	Texas Southern	2
51	Ball, Larry	LB	6-6	235	25	Louisville	4
58	Bannon, Bruce	LB	6-3	225	24	Penn State	3
85	Buoniconti, Nick	LB	5-11	220	34	Notre Dame	14
74	Crowder, Randy	DT	6-2	236	22	Penn State	2
77	Crusan, Doug	T	6-4	250	29	Indiana	7
83	Den Herder, Vern	DE	6-6	252	26	Central Iowa	5
73	Evans, Norm	T	6-5	250	32	Texas Christian	11
75	Fernandez, Manny	DT	6-2	250	29	Utah	8
25	Foley, Tim	CB	6-0	194	27	Purdue	6
70	Funchess, Tom	T	6-5	270	30	Jackson State	8
55	Goode, Irv	C-G	6-5	262	34	Kentucky	13
12	Griese, Bob	QB	6-1	190	30	Purdue	9
72	Heinz, Bob	DT	6-6	265	28	Pacific	7
45	Johnson, Curtis	CB	6-1	196	27	Toledo	6
57	Kolen, Mike	LB	6-2	222	27	Auburn	6
67	Kuechenberg, Bob	T-G	6-2	252	27	Notre Dame	6
62	Langer, Jim	C	6-2	253	27	South Dakota State	6
66	Little, Larry	G	6-1	265	29	Bethune-Cookman	9
32	Malone, Benny	RB	5-10	193	23	Arizona State	2
88	Mandich, Jim	TE	6-2	224	27	Michigan	6
53	Matheson, Bob	LB	6-4	235	30	Duke	9
65	Moore, Maulty	DT	6-5	265	29	Bethune-Cookman	4
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-10	180	23	Florida	2
79	Moore, Wayne	T	6-6	265	30	Lamar	6
15	Morrall, Earl	QB	6-2	210	41	Michigan State	20
22	Morris, Mercury	RB	6-1	192	28	West Texas State	7
26	Mumphord, Lloyd	CB	5-10	176	28	Texas Southern	7
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2	245	24	Duke	3
36	Nottingham, Don	RB	5-10	210	26	Kent State	5
76	Reese, Don	DE-DT	6-6	255	23	Jackson State	2
13	Scott, Jake	S	6-0	188	30	Georgia	6
20	Seiple, Larry	P-TE	6-0	214	30	Kentucky	9
84	Stanfill, Bill	DE	6-5	252	28	Georgia	7
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	216	24	Virginia Tech	2
59	Swift, Doug	LB	6-3	226	26	Amherst	6
81	Twilley, Howard	WR	5-10	185	31	Tulsa	10
41	White, Jeris	CB	5-11	180	22	Hawaii	2
60	Wickert, Tom	T	6-4	246	23	Washington State	2
1	Yepremian, Garo	K	5-8	175	31	None	9

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Carlton, Darryl	23	T	Tampa
2.	Solomon, Fred	36	QB	Tampa
	from Green Bay			
	Winfrey, Stan	49	RB	Arkansas State
3.	Hill, Gerald	75	LB	Houston
4.	Elia, Bruce	100	LB	Ohio State
5.	Owens, Morris	106	WR	Arizona State
	from New York Giants			
	Hill, Barry	127	DB	Iowa State
	Towle, Steve	143	LB	Kansas
	from New York Jets			
7.	Kent, Phillip	179	RB	Baylor
8.	Crawford, Barney	205	DT	Harding
9.	Wilson, James	231	G	Clark
10.	Russell, Clyde	239	RB	Oklahoma
	from Chicago			
	Jackson, Joe	256	TE	Penn State
	from Washington			
	Danelo, Joe	257	K	Washington State
11.	Dilworth, John	283	DB	Northwest Louisiana
12.	Yancey, Joe	309	T	Henderson, Ark.
13.	Isabell, Leonard	334	WR	Tulsa
14.	Lewis, James	338	DB	Tennessee State
	from New York Giants			
	Graham, John	361	QB	Colorado State
15.	Johns, Skip	387	RB	Carson-Newman
16.	Smith, Vernon	413	C	Georgia
17.	Copeland, Dwaine	439	RB	Middle Tennessee

COACHES:
DON SHULA, Monte Clark, Don Doll, Tom Keane, Mike Scarry, Howard Schnellenberger, Carl Taseff.

MAIMI DOLPHINS

now sure of remaining with Miami, it appears Shula's problems are solved, in this area, at least. Just in case, however, the Dolphins made big Darryl Carlton of Tampa their No. 1 pick. Carlton is a 6-5½, 260-pound tackle with possibilities at center. It will take an injury for him to break into the starting lineup of Pro Bowler Moore and steady Norm Evans at tackles, All-Pro Larry Little and underrated Kuechenberg at guards, and All-Pro Jim Langer at center. Last year's injuries gave youngsters Tom Wickert and Ed Newman chances to play, and Wickert in particular did some good work at both guard and tackle. There's also hope Bob Wolfe (last year's No. 6 draft pick) will free himself from a WFL contract and subsequently join Miami.

DEFENSE

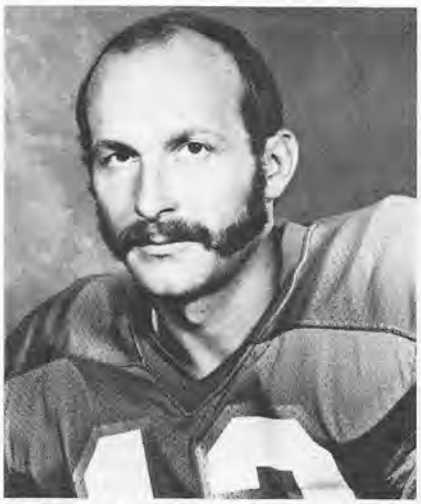
Front four—With Fernandez slowed by shoulder and abdominal problems, the Miami front lost much of its zip last year. The team defense still did well against the rush but against the pass the Dolphins were no better than 16th in the NFL. With ends Vern Den Herder and Bill Stanfill, two of the best in the business, and a healthy Fernandez, Miami should apply more pressure in '75. Bob Heinz is Fernandez running mate when Miami isn't in its 53 defense. Again there is young depth in Maulty Moore, who'll be entering his fourth year, and last season's rookies, Don Reese and Randy Crowder. Only one player, Barney Crawford of Harding, was added in the draft but the WFL, which taketh, may giveth away again in the form of Bill Stevenson, a fourth-round choice last year. He's a tackle.

Linebackers—Use of the 53 was somewhat limited because Bob Matheson, the man who makes it go, was busy playing as a regular most of the year. First he was on the weakside when Mike Kolen shifted to the middle to replace the injured Buoniconti. Later Matheson filled in on the strong side when Swift broke his arm. The Kolen-Buoniconti-Swift unit will be reunited this fall, now that Swift has decided to stay on in Miami. Behind them are Matheson, Larry Ball and Bruce Bannon, as well as several top rookies and possibly another WFL expatriot, Gerald Hill of Houston and Bruce Elia of Ohio State, two fine athletes, will be given trials with Elia challenging in the middle. Steve Towle of Kansas is another hopeful, and from the WFL may come Cleveland Vann, a fifth-round choice from last year.

Secondary—Loss of both Jake Scott and Curtis Johnson in the Oakland playoff game helped open the gates for Stabler's passing attack. Scott had something of an off-season, but still managed eight interceptions and remains as perhaps the premier free safety in the game. Johnson is just a super-underrated cornerback. Along with Dick Anderson, the strong safety, and Foley, free from the WFL, Scott and Johnson should help form a solid defensive backfield again. Reserve help comes from Lloyd Mumphord, who would replace Foley if necessary, Charlie Babb and Jeris White, a rookie last year. Tops among the draftees who'll vie for jobs is Barry Hill, who had nine interceptions as a senior and 21 career thefts at Iowa State. He's programmed as a free safety while John Dilworth of Northwest Louisiana, a 4.5 man, will be tried out for ability at cornerback.

Special teams—Garo Yepremian felt the crunch of the new rules and kicked just eight of 15 field goal tries last year. So a challenger is being brought in. He's Joe Danelo, who had 12 field goals in 1973 and 31 career at Washington State. His coach, Joe Sweeney, compares him favorably to Jan Stenerud, whom Sweeney coached at Montana State. Handyman Larry Seiple should remain as the team's punter and backup everything-else although he averaged less than 39 yards per try in '74. There are plenty of return men, led by Nat Moore, Scott, Malone and Ginn, with rookie possibilities Solomon, Phillip Kent of Baylor, and Clyde Russell, a 5-9 Greg Pruitt-type from Oklahoma who'll get a shot at running back.

No. 66—Larry Little



No. 13—Jake Scott

No. 53—Bob Matheson

No. 89—Nat Moore

1974 Season Results

MIAMI (11-3-0)

24	New England	34
24	Buffalo	16
28	San Diego	21
21	*N.Y. Jets	17
17	Washington	20
9	*Kansas City	3
17	*Baltimore	7
42	*Atlanta	7
21	New Orleans	0
35	*Buffalo	28
14	N.Y. Jets	17
24	*Cincinnati	3
17	Baltimore	16
34	*New England	27

* DENOTES HOME GAME

NEW YORK JETS

HEAD COACH CHARLEY WINNER

The optimism generated by an end-of-season six-game winning streak has been tempered in the New York Jets' case by the uncertain status of the man most responsible for that streak.

Quarterback Joe Namath, sensational in the stretch which brought the struggling Jets to a respectable 7-7 finish, played out his option and immediately became the No. 1 target of the "new" World Football League. Although he rejected a reported $4 million bid from the WFL, Namath still wasn't sure whether or not he'd play football for the Jets, or anyone, in '75.

Undaunted, coach Charley Winner was ready to go with backup man Al Woodall as his field leader. Winner repeated his declaration of last offseason when it was unsure whether the legendary Namath would return because of health reasons: "We have complete confidence in Al. He can get the job done."

Woodall's career has been checkered. He's alternately flunked, and passed, as an injury replacement for Namath through his six pro seasons. He threw only eight times last season, but in '73, with Namath nursing an injured shoulder, the 6-5 Woodall showed his finest pro form by completing 101 of 201 for 1228 yards and nine touchdowns.

While the attention centered in the quarterback area (Woodall was playing out his option, too, but signed in March with new general manager Al Ward), Winner continued to build a club to his specifications. "In order to be good in the NFL you have to be aggressive and physical," is his credo.

Winner inherited a relatively small squad from his father-in-law, Weeb Ewbank, but last year increased the overall size of his club with a few key additions. Now he's come up with two more people to his liking, defensive end Billy Newsome and defensive tackle Jim Bailey. The two ex-Colts have been programmed as starting defensive linemen. The Jets were 24th in the league against the rush last year despite the presence of the jumbo No. 1 draft pick, Carl Barzilauskas.

The coach also has made a change in his linebacking corps and has another shift pending the development of young Godwin Turk. He plans one change in his secondary, which by the end of last year was performing well. Overall, the defense looks much improved and, for the first time in many years, deep with replacements.

Offensively, there isn't a better receiving trio anywhere than Jerome Barkum, David Knight and Rich Caster. The offensive line, retooled last year, appears set now that Garry Puetz has escaped a WFL contract. And if John Riggins ever gets it together again, the running game should be one of the better ones around.

So that leaves the quarterbacking, and the big question hanging over the club as it prepared for training camp.

"We're not in the caliber of teams like Pittsburgh, Oakland, Minnesota and Miami," admits Winner. "But through the draft and trades we're fast approaching that. I think the players and coaches have an enthusiasm about the approaching season. The players especially know what they can do."

And we all know what Joe Namath can do. Whether he does it for the Jets or not is the only question.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Winner thinks Namath is just reaching his peak efficiency as a quarterback. The 32-year-old superstar had just five interceptions over the final six games in which he completed 85 of 147 for 1196 yards and 11 touchdowns. That kind of passing would be sorely missed! If Joe isn't back, the sometimes awkward-looking Woodall gets complete charge of the unit. His fine 1973 season was shortened by several injuries, but during it he seemed to demand the respect of his teammates, the respect missing during his first few seasons. Behind him would be Bill Demory, a free-agent surprise of two years ago, and J.J. Jones, a strike-produced surprise of the summer of '74. Neither threw a single pass in league play last season.

Running backs—Riggins, slowed by a sore shoulder, nevertheless led the club with 680 yards and showed flashes of his 1972 form which

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 43—Jazz Jackson

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 88—Rich Caster

NEW YORK JETS

stamped him as a potential superstar. The 6-2, 230-pounder teams with steady Emerson Boozer (563 yards) to form a capable starting duo. But when injuries strike, as they have in recent years, the Jets are in trouble. They were hopeful of signing USC's Anthony Davis, their second-round draft pick who would have alleviated a noticeable lack of speed. Davis, however, was signed by the WFL. So the reserves will be the same as last year: tiny-but-tough Mike Adamle, who excels on special teams; big-but-brittle Hank Bjorklund; and two of last year's rookies, big Bob Burns and little Jazz Jackson. The only rookie hope is Jon Bradford of Central State (Ohio).

Receivers—Barkum, Knight and Caster combined for 119 catches and 14 touchdowns last year. The trio is well-balanced: the big, fast Barkum (41 receptions) on the weak side, where he can use his size to good blocking advantage; the smaller, stylish Knight (40) at flanker, providing the moves and gluelike hands; and the Pro Bowl Caster (38) at tight end, where his speed makes him the best deep threat of any in the league coming out of his position. In reserve is onetime starter Eddie Bell, who caught 13 balls last season. James Scott, who had 52 receptions for the WFL Chicago Fire a year ago, would be a talented addition, if he gets out of his contract and has recovered from knee surgery. Kick returners Lou Piccone and Marv Owens are other wide receivers while Willie Brister, a rookie last season, backs up the tight end.

Offensive line—Robert Woods at left tackle; Puetz at right guard; Wayne Mulligan at center. They were the new faces in the Jet front wall last season, and predictably had a tough time meshing with holdovers Winston Hill and Randy Rasmussen. But by the end of the season the unit was working well together, another reason for the gigantic turnaround. Still Winner looks for more strength up front further to enhance the running game. He'll probably work from within his regulars since the reserve strength is basically untested. Roger Bernhardt and Travis Roach back up the guards; Gordie Browne, a flop last year as the No. 2 draft pick, is behind the tackles; and journeymen Howard Kindig and Warren Koegal support Mulligan. Two high draft picks, Joe Wysock of Miami (No. 4) and Tom Alward of Nebraska (No. 5), have good chances of landing reserve spots.

DEFENSE

Front four—The 6-6, 280-pound Barzilauskas was a revelation at defensive tackle as a rookie. He recorded five sacks on his inside rushes and provided strength and bulk which always has been missing from Jet front fours—even the Super Bowl variety. Now comes Newsome (6-5, 260), who has played topflight ball at both Baltimore and New Orleans, and Bailey, (6-6, 255), a strong tackle particularly adept at stopping the run. Fourth member of the unit will be either Richard Neal or Mark Lomas (if he escapes a WFL contract), each of whom had five sacks last year while splitting time at right end. Depth is no longer a problem with Joe Schmiesing, a stopgap starter last year; Larry Woods, former Lion and Dolphin; Ed

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
1	Adamle, Mike	RB	5-9	193	25	Northwestern	5
62	Atkinson, Al	LB	6-2	230	32	Penn State	11
80	Bailey, Jim	DT	6-6	255	27	Kansas	6
51	Baker, Ralph	LB	6-3	228	33	Penn State	12
83	Barkum, Jerome	WR	6-4	212	25	Jackson State	4
77	Barzilauskas, Carl	DT	6-6	280	24	Indiana	2
7	Bell, Ed	WR	5-10	160	27	Idaho State	6
68	Bernhardt, Roger	G	6-4	244	25	Kansas	2
40	Bjorklund, Hank	RB	6-1	200	25	Princeton	4
23	Bond, Jerry	S	6-3	210	26	Weber State	1
32	Boozer, Emerson	RB	5-11	205	32	Maryland-E.S.	10
86	Brister, Willie	TE	6-4	236	23	Southern	2
79	Browne, Gordie	T	6-5	265	23	Boston College	2
33	Burns, Bob	RB	6-3	212	23	Georgia	2
88	Caster, Richard	TE	6-5	228	26	Jackson State	6
90	Collins, Ed	WR	6-1	190	23	Rice	1
6	Demory, Bill	QB	6-2	195	24	Arizona	3
55	Ebersole, John	LB	6-3	235	26	Penn State	6
58	Ferguson, Bill	LB	6-3	225	24	San Diego State	3
85	Galigher, Ed	DE	6-4	260	24	UCLA	4
8	Gantt, Greg	P-K	5-11	188	23	Alabama	2
75	Hill, Winston	T	6-4	280	33	Texas Southern	13
20	Howell, Delles	CB	6-4	200	27	Grambling	6
3	Howfield, Bobby	K	5-9	180	38	None	8
43	Jackson, Jazz	RB	5-8	167	23	Western Kentucky	2
11	Jones, John	QB	6-1	195	23	Fisk	1
59	Kindig, Howard	C	6-6	260	34	Cal State-Los Angeles	10
53	Koegel, Warren	C	6-2	260	25	Penn State	4
82	Knight, David	WR	6-1	182	24	William & Mary	3
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	200	25	St. Louis University	2
53	Lewis, Richard	LB	6-2	215	25	Portland State	4
57	Little, John	DE-DT	6-3	250	28	Oklahoma State	6
84	Lomas, Mark	DE	6-4	250	27	Northern Arizona	6
50	Mulligan, Wayne	C	6-3	250	28	Clemson	6
12	Namath, Joe	QB	6-2	200	32	Alabama	11
81	Neal, Richard	DT-DE	6-3	260	27	Southern	7
87	Newsome, Billy	DE	6-5	260	27	Grambling	7
22	Owens, Burgess	S	6-26	200	24	Miami	3
37	Owens, Marv	WR	5-11	205	25	San Diego State	2
89	Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9	175	26	West Liberty State	2
25	Prout, Bob	S	6-1	190	23	Knox	2
78	Puetz, Gary	G	6-3	255	23	Valparaiso	3
66	Rasmussen, Randy	G	6-2	267	30	Kearney State	9
52	Reese, Steve	LB	6-2	232	23	Louisville	2
44	Riggins, John	RB	6-2	230	26	Kansas	5
54	Rivers, Jamie	LB	6-2	245	29	Bowling Green	8
63	Roach, Travis	G	6-2	260	25	Texas	2
71	Roberts, Gerry	DE	6-5	250	24	UCLA	1
74	Schmiesing, Joe	DT-DE	6-4	256	30	New Mexico State	8
46	Sowells, Rich	CB	6-0	185	26	Alcorn A&M	5
17	Steele, Larry	P	5-10	182	25	Santa Rose J.C.	1
21	Tannen, Steve	S-CB	6-1	194	27	Florida	6
45	Thomas, Earlie	CB	6-1	190	29	Colorado State	6
56	Turk, Godwin	LB	6-3	230	24	Southern	2
27	Wise, Phil	S	6-0	190	26	Nebraska	5
18	Woodall, Al	QB	6-5	194	29	Duke	7
70	Woods, Larry	DT	6-6	270	27	Tennessee State	6
72	Woods, Robert	T	6-3	255	25	Tennessee State	3
47	Word, Roscoe	CB	5-11	170	22	Jackson State	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
2.	Davis, Anthony	37	RB	So. California
3.	Wood, Richard	68	LB	So. California
5.	Wysock, Joe	118	G	Miami
	Alward, Tom from Miami	153	G	Nebraska
8.	Scott, James	193	WR	Henderson J.C.
9.	Taylor, Everett	224	DB	Memphis State
10.	James, Charles	249	DB	Jackson State
11.	Bradford, Jon	274	RB	Central State, Ohio
12.	Cooper, Bert	299	LB	Florida State
13.	Spivey, Dan	324	DT	Georgia
14.	Fields, Joe	349	C	Widener
15.	Manor, Brison	380	DT	Arkansas
16.	Wells, Greg	405	G	Albany State
17.	Bartoszek, Mike	430	TE	Ohio State

COACHES:
CHARLEY WINNER, Bob Fry, Sam Rutigliano, Buddy Ryan, Ken Shipp, Jim Spavital, Dick Voris.

Galigher, being switched from end to tackle; and John Little, a throwback to the light, quick defensive lines of a few years ago. Joining the group is John Ricca, a hard-charging end who did well in the WFL last year.

Linebackers—Ralph Baker, Jamie Rivers and John Ebersole finished the year as the starters but Ebersole already has been unseated on the right side by Rich Lewis. He's the onetime Buffalo starter grabbed on injured waivers last year when the Bills tried to sneak him back onto their roster. And Turk, a roughneck 230-pounder who missed his rookie year because of an injury, could move in as a starter on the left side. Baker, one of the few (six to be exact) survivors from the Super Bowl squad, has talked of retirement after 11 seasons. So Ebersole has been shifted to the strong side, just in case. Also around are vets Steve Reese, Al Atkinson (reserve middleman and fourth linebacker on special defenses) and Bill Ferguson, another looking to void a WFL pact. And a place must be made for Richard Wood, the No. 3 draft pick from Southern Cal, where he was a three-time All-American. Wood is penciled in as a backup to Lewis.

Secondary—There appears to be just one question in this defensive backfield, and that is at left cornerback. Delles Howell, a stellar performer there in 1973, started just one game last season but came up with two interceptions before succumbing to injury. He should have the inside track on Richie Sowells, who performed at the spot most of last season. Otherwise it will be the tremendous Burgess Owens, a future All-Pro, at strong safety, Phil Wise at free safety, and Roscoe Word, drafted primarily as a kick returner last year, at right corner. Word unseated veteran Earlie Thomas from his spot and retained it all season with hustle and continued improvement. Steve Tannen remains as a reserve and sometimes fifth back on special defenses. Newcomers Ed Taylor and Charley James, draft picks, and Bob Prout, obtained from Oakland, are other hopefuls.

Special teams—There should be interesting battles for both kicking jobs. Veteran Bobby Howfield, who booted six of seven field goals before being injured last year; Pat Leahy, who connected on six-of-11 as Howfield's replacement; and Moses Lajterman, who was seven-of-10 in the WFL, are contesting for the placekicker spot. Greg Gantt, a disappointing rookie last year, faces the challenge of ex-Bronco-for-a-while Larry Steele in the punting department. Gantt was last in the NFL with a 35.9 norm last year. Return men include the reckless Piccone, the key man on the kickoff runbacks, Word, who started slowly but came on at the end of the year as the punt returner, and Jazz Jackson. Davis, who ran back an NCAA record six kickoffs for TDs at USC, would have been a talented addition here if he had chosen the Jets.

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 44—John Riggins

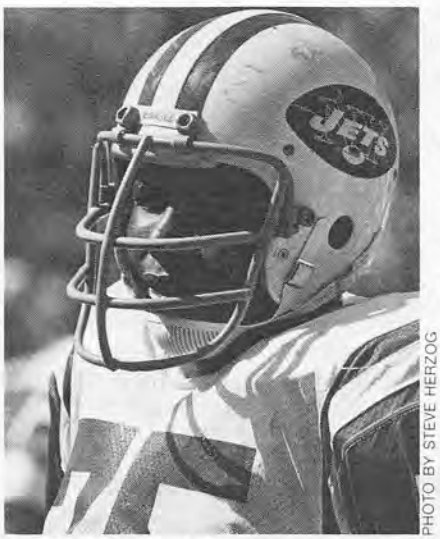
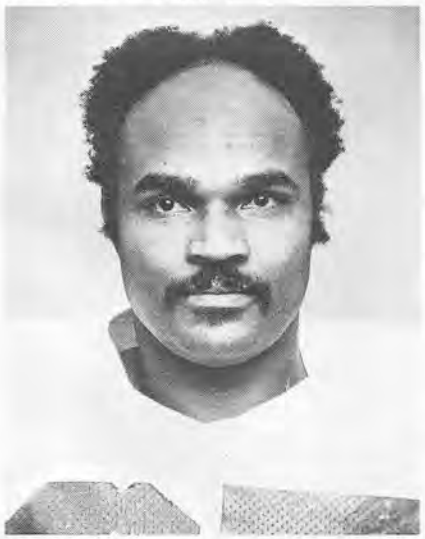


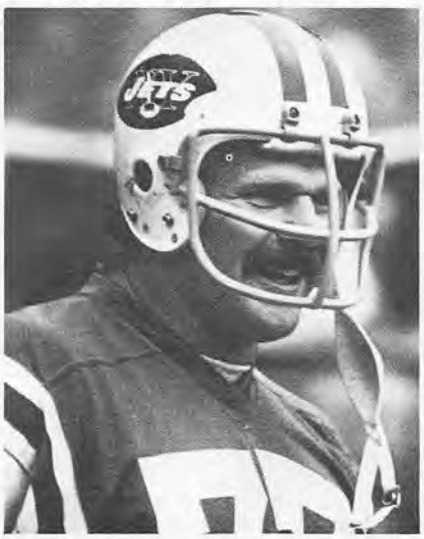
PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 75—Winston Hill

No. 83—Jerome Barkum



No. 87—Billy Newsome



No. 77—Carl Barzilauskas

1974 Season Results
NEW YORK JETS (7-7-0)

16		Kansas City	24
23		Chicago	21
12		Buffalo	16
17		Miami	21
0	*	New England	24
20	*	Baltimore	35
13	*	Los Angeles	20
22	*	Houston	27
26		N.Y. Giants	20
21		New England	16
17	*	Miami	14
27	*	San Diego	14
20	*	Buffalo	10
45		Baltimore	38

* DENOTES HOME GAME

BUFFALO BILLS

HEAD COACH LOU SABAN

When a team finishes a sparkling fifth overall in the National Football League defensive rankings, and a ragged 23rd in the offensive ratings, it's figured the off-season would be spent trying to hypo that club's attack unit. But in the case of the Buffalo Bills, just the opposite has occurred.

Coach Lou Saban, after directing the Bills to their first playoff spot since 1965, has been more concerned with the team's defense, despite the glossy showing in 1974. "Injuries last year revealed a critical lack of depth on defense," reasoned Saban. "We moved in the draft to improve our depth on defense in particular. As Pittsburgh proved conclusively in Super Bowl IX, strong defense is the hallmark of champions."

The defensive injuries which hurt the most were the loss of both outside linebackers, John Skorupan and Rich Lewis, after six games; the inability of young Jeff Winans, counted on as the right end, to play a down all year; and last but certainly not least, the departure of Tony Greene, having a super season at free safety, with two games left in the regular season.

So while the Bills did make the playoffs, they were eliminated quickly by the champ-to-be Steelers. To forestall another fast post-season exit, Saban used nine of his 16 draft picks to grab defensive players, with his first two choices and three of his first five selections being linebackers. Lewis is gone (claimed by the Jets on injured waivers) and Skorupan, of course, is shaky coming back from knee surgery. So Saban wanted to be sure he had enough able people to man the most important spots in his defensive unit.

Meanwhile on offense . . .

While the Bills' total yardage dropped off some 500 yards from the club's 1973 pace, Saban was heartened by the better balance achieved between the rushing (2094) and passing (1492) yardage. The rushing-passing attempts, nearly three-to-one in O.J. Simpson's record-setting '73 season, were a more compatible two-to-one (544 to 251) at the end of 1974.

Key to the increased passing was the development of Joe Ferguson as the Bills' quarterback. Merely a handoff machine in his rookie year, Ferguson came out throwing last season and surprised many an opposing defense with his ability to do so. The former Arkansas star tailed off in the final few games, which along with the defensive injuries were the reasons Buffalo was just 2-5 down the stretch, including the 32-14 playoff pounding by Pittsburgh.

"Joe Ferguson has established himself, at least in our eyes, as a topflight NFL quarterback capable of shouldering his share of the offensive burden," said Saban.

"He's the key to our club, no doubt about it," said O.J. Simpson of Ferguson prior to last season. "I may not gain as many yards as I did last year (1973) but we should be a better team with better balance. It's up to Joe, and I think he's gonna do it for us."

Simpson didn't gain as many yards as his record-shattering 2003 in '73. Matter of fact he fell off nearly 900 yards to a modest (for him) 1125. The Bills wound up with the same regular-season record as in 1973 (9-5), but this time it was good enough to gain them the wild card spot.

No. 12—Joe Ferguson

No. 32—O.J. Simpson **No. 67—Reggie McKenzie**

No. 27—Ahmad Rashad

Now the natural progression must continue for O.J. and his friends. First, a winning record; then a playoff spot; now a divisional and conference title; and eventually should come a Super Bowl triumph.

"This is an important year for the Buffalo Bills," admits Saban. "We have become a winner, a championship contender. Now we must live up to our reputation."

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Ferguson received a big boost last year when Saban dealt two veteran signal callers, Dennis Shaw and Leo Hart, to other NFL clubs. That left the 6-1, 180-pound Ferguson in charge of things. He responded with a 51.3 percentage record, 1588 yards and 12 touchdowns as compared to 44.5, 939, and four as a rookie. He still must cut down on interceptions (12) and avoid sacks (32), although the latter is somewhat due to an offensive line geared to blocking for the run. Behind Ferguson is the two-years-younger Gary Marangi (23), who broke in with a pair of TD passes against Miami last year and who may be a better natural passer than Ferguson. One rookie, Chris Kupec of North Carolina, was drafted late after completing a record 69.3 percent of his Tar Heel tosses. Also on the roster is Scott Hunter, the ex-Green Bay savior who now rates "also on the roster" status.

Running backs—Another reason for the dropoff in O.J.'s yardage was the continued improvement of his running mate, big Jim Braxton. The former West Virginia star netted 543 yards with his inside bursts to form a perfect duo with Simpson. O.J., with 4343 yards in his last three seasons, has vaulted into sixth place among the NFL all-time rushing leaders. And this will be his seventh season in the league. The depth is young, with a pair of Penn Staters, Gary Hayman and Tom Donchez, in the lead. Hayman broke a leg in the season's opener against Oakland and never returned, but if he's fully recovered, he posseses outstanding speed. Donchez, a 6-2, 216-pound bruiser, must overcome a fumbling habit he had in college. Also around are young vets Don Calhoun (88 yards in '74) and Clint Haslerig (former WR-DB), and draft picks Roland Hooks of North Carolina State and Reggie Cherry of Houston. Both the rookies averaged 5.5 per carry during their college careers.

Receivers—The improvement in Ferguson coincided with the arrival of Ahmad Rashad from St. Louis. Rashad led the club in receptions with 36 and caught four TD passes. Close behind was J.D. Hill with 32 catches and six scores. Few teams boast a speedier outside pair than the 6-2, 200-pound Rashad and the 6-1, 190-pound Hill, both first-round draft choices. Behind them is the veteran Bob Chandler, coming back from knee surgery, and a couple of rookies, Gil Chapman and Robert Evans. Chapman, at 5-9, appears better suited to kick return duties, however. Reuben Gant was supposed to challenge Paul Seymour for the tight end post but last year's No. 1 draft pick suffered a shoulder separation in pre-season and played sparingly. Seymour, meanwhile, upped his receptions from 10 in '73 to 15, and averaged an impressive 16.4 yards per catch. His blocking is excellent.

Offensive line—A late-season appen-

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
60	Adams, Bill	G	6-2	254	25	Holy Cross	3
59	Allen, Doug	LB	6-2	228	23	Penn State	2
7	Bateman, Marv	P	6-4	210	25	Utah	4
34	Braxton, Jim	RB	6-1	240	25	West Virginia	5
22	Cahill, Bill	S	5-11	170	24	Washington	3
29	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0	198	23	Kansas State	2
81	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-0	180	26	Southern California	5
50	Cheyunski, Jim	LB	6-1	220	29	Syracuse	8
30	Cornell, Bo	LB	6-2	215	26	Washington	5
42	Craig, Neal	S	6-1	190	27	Fisk	5
72	Croft, Don	DT	6-4	254	26	Texas-El Paso	3
68	DeLamielleure, Joe	G	6-3	245	24	Michigan State	3
73	Edwards, Earl	DT	6-7	256	29	Wichita State	7
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	180	25	Arkansas	3
78	Foley, Dave	T	6-3	253	27	Ohio State	6
88	Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4	230	23	Oklahoma State	2
74	Green, Donnie	T	6-7	272	27	Purdue	5
43	Greene, Tony	S	5-10	170	26	Maryland	5
76	Hagen, Halvor	T	6-6	253	28	Weber State	7
28	Harrison, Dwight	CB	6-2	185	26	Texas A&I	5
47	Haslerig, Clint	RB	6-0	189	23	Michigan	2
21	Hayman, Gary	RB	6-1	198	24	Penn State	1
40	Hill, J.D.	WR	6-1	190	26	Arizona State	5
16	Hunter, Scott	QB	6-2	205	27	Alabama	5
20	James, Robert	CB	6-1	184	28	Fisk	7
51	Jarvis, Bruce	C	6-7	250	26	Washington	5
71	Kadish, Mike	DT	6-5	270	25	Notre Dame	3
45	Kern, Rex	S	6-1	190	26	Ohio State	5
37	Koy, Ted	LB	6-2	210	27	Texas	6
52	Krakau, Merv	LB	6-2	237	24	Iowa State	3
3	Leypoldt, John	K	6-2	237	29	None	5
17	Marangi, Gary	QB	6-1	196	23	Boston College	2
67	McKenzie, Reggie	G	6-4	242	25	Michigan	4
77	Means, Dave	DE	6-4	235	23	S.W. Missouri State	2
53	Montler, Mike	C	6-4	253	30	Colorado	7
61	Parker, Willie	C-G	6-3	245	25	North Texas State	4
85	Patulski, Walt	DE	6-6	259	25	Notre Dame	4
27	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2	200	26	Oregon	4
87	Seymour, Paul	TE	6-5	243	25	Michigan	3
32	Simpson, O.J.	RB	6-1	212	28	Southern California	7
55	Skorupan, John	LB	6-2	221	23	Penn State	3
86	Washington, Dave	LB	6-5	223	26	Alcorn A&M	6
75	Winans, Jeff	DT	6-5	265	23	Southern California	2
62	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	240	23	Boston College	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Ruud, Tom	19	LB	Nebraska
	Nelson, Bob from Philadelphia	42	LB	Nebraska
	Lott, Glenn from Oakland	50	DB	Drake
	Donchez, Tom from Washington	102	RB	Penn State
	McCrumbly, John from Houston thru Oakland	115	LB	Texas A&M
7.	Chapman, Gil from San Francisco	166	RB	Michigan
	Cherry, Reggie from Denver	174	RB	Houston
	Banks, Harry	175	DB	Michigan
8.	Hill, John	201	DT	Duke
10.	Hooks, Roland	253	RB	North Carolina State
11.	Drake, Tom	279	DB	Michigan
12.	Johnson, Mark	305	DE	Missouri
13.	Dienhart, Mark	331	T	St. Thomas, Minn.
14.	Evans, Robert	350	WR	Morris Brown
15.	Kupec, Chris	383	QB	North Carolina
16.	Fine, Tom	408	TE	Notre Dame
17.	Turcotte, Jeff	435	DE	Colorado

COACHES:
LOU SABAN, Bill Atkins, Ed Cavanaugh, Stan Jones, John Ray, Jim Ringo.

BUFFALO BILLS

dectomy on tackle Donnie Green was the only disruption in the "Big 10" offensive front. Green, from Purdue, teams with Dave Foley of Ohio State at the tackles. Joe DeLamielleure of Michigan State and Reggie McKenzie of Michigan are the guards. And Seymour, the tight end, also is from Michigan. Somehow Colorado's Mike Montler has sneaked in as center. O.J. swears by the group as a unit and plugs his "main man," McKenzie, as an All Pro. Veterans back up in each spot, with Halvor Hagen behind the tackles, Bill Adams and Willie Parker backing the guards, and Bruce Jarvis supporting Montler at center. Only one draft pick, the 13th, was used on an offensive lineman and it brought the 6-2, 250-pound Mark Dienhart to Buffalo from St. Thomas College in Minnesota.

DEFENSE

Front four—The lack of a consistent right end forced the Bills to use a three-man front at times in 1974. The three regulars were Earl Edwards, who worked both at tackle and end; Mike Kadish, both tackle and noseguard; and Walt Patulski, the steady left end. A pair of Jeffs, Winans and Yeates, should battle for the right end opening. Yeates came back strong from knee surgery last year while Winans was drydocked. Both primarily have played inside, and if either appears better suited for tackle play, Edwards will shift out to the end. Veteran Don Croft, a starter in 1973, and young Dave Means are other hopefuls while the draft produced Duke's John Hill, a former lacrosse star, and Missouri's Mark Johnson, who had 16 sacks as a senior tackle.

Linebackers—Roommates, classmates and teammates, Tom Ruud and Bob Nelson were all of those at Nebraska. And they will continue to be the closest of friends in pro ball, now that Buffalo has made them its first two picks in the draft. Ruud, at 6-3, 223, is listed as a weakside prospect while Nelson, at 6-4, 232, is penciled in at the strong side although he played the middle in college. The pair combined for 407 tackles in three Cornhusking seasons. Skorupan, if he's fully recovered, and Dave Washington, who did some excellent things after replacing Lewis last year, rate the outside nods with steady Jim Cheyunski in the middle. Doug Allen, a second-year man, shifts to the middle while Bo Cornell, erstwhile running back, continues to learn the intricacies of playing outside linebacker. Another rookie, 6-2, 253-pound John McCrumbly of Texas A&M, was selected on the fifth round and will get a shot in the middle. Throw in special teamers Merv Krakau and Ted Koy, and it's apparent Saban has a lot to choose from in his linebacker corps this fall.

Secondary—Greene, a part-time cornerback and safety until last season, was a revelation at the free safety spot, garnering nine interceptions before going down to knee surgery after the 6-0 win over Baltimore Dec. 1. Teammates voted the 5-10, 170-pound Greene the club's Most Valuable Player after his efforts which solidified a questionable defensive backfield. Robert James, however, slumped a little in his play. He still rates as one of the better cornerbacks in the NFL. Rugged Dwight Harrison and Neal Craig, obtained from Cincinnati, round out the starting foursome which could thrive if Greene recovers fully from his knee surgery. There is plenty of draft help for support, including Glenn Lott of Drake, a linebacker-turned-strong safety compared favorably by some scouts to Oakland's Jack Tatum. Lott is joined by a pair of Michiganders, Harry Banks and Tom Drake, in the rookie sweepstakes. Also back are vets Rex Kern, who filled in for Greene last year, and Bill Cahill.

Special teams—Marv Bateman, signed in midseason, gave the Bills a punter to go along with stellar placekicker Jon Leypoldt. Bateman averaged 43.9 per kick, a 6.6-yard improvement per boot over Spike Jones, whom he replaced. Leypoldt was 19-of-33 in field goals and tallied 82 points. The kick return jobs are up for grabs after the trading of Wallace Francis (kickoffs) to Atlanta and Donnie Walker (punts) to Los Angeles. Chapman, whose combined return total was better than 1000 yards at Michigan, rates high on the list of prospects as does Hooks, particularly impressive in a rookie camp. Hooks totaled 981 yards on kickoff returns alone at N.C. State. Hayman, if his leg is solid. Cahill and Calhoun are others with runback experience.

No. 34—Jim Braxton

No. 40—J.D. Hill

No. 53—Mike Montler

1974 Season Results

BUFFALO (9-5-0)

21	*Oakland	20
16	*Miami	24
16	*N.Y. Jets	12
27	Green Bay	7
27	Baltimore	14
30	*New England	28
16	*Chicago	6
29	New England	29
9	*Houston	21
28	Miami	35
15	Cleveland	10
6	*Baltimore	0
10	N.Y. Jets	20
14	Los Angeles	19

* DENOTES HOME GAME

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

HEAD COACH CHUCK FAIRBANKS

Chuck Fairbanks' first season as head coach at Oklahoma (1967) was anything but overwhelming, and Sooner boosters were not at all sure he was the man to return the school to its onetime position of prowess. Bumper stickers emerged all over the state, urging the university to "Send Fairbanks back to Alaska."

A few seasons later Fairbanks did head north, but not to the city of the same name. After putting together one of the finest machines in college football history, the 42-year-old Fairbanks decided to try his hand at the pro game. The Patriots chose him as head coach, or rather he chose the Pats from among several offers.

Again his first year wasn't earth-shaking, a 5-9 mark in 1973. But there were no bumper stickers in and around Foxboro, suggesting Fairbanks should spend some time in the 49th state. Instead there was enthusiasm, finally, that the Patriots soon would assume a position of authority among the National Football League competitors. That feeling reached a frenzy early last season when Fairbanks and his Pats upset Miami, Los Angeles, and finally Minnesota in one of the most exciting games of a most-exciting season.

At mid-year New England stood 6-1, clearly the surprise team of the American Conference. Fairbanks had his offense purring behind Jim Plunkett and Mutt 'n Jeff runners Sam Cunningham and Mack Herron. And he had developed a four-linebacker defensive set which puzzled and effectively halted opposing offenses.

"In reviewing the 1974 season I look back with mixed emotions," says Fairbanks.

Obviously something happened in the second half to temper the enthusiasm of the first seven games. Six losses. That will sadden even the most ardent optimist. A combination of down-to-earthness and several key injuries resulted in the Patriots winning just once over the second portion of the 1974 season.

"The second half of the season was disappointing because what we accomplished in the first half got us into the divisional and conference races but we were unable to continue the pace," Fairbanks said. "In 1974 we started to believe we could win. If we had a motto for 1975 it would be 'now we should expect to win.'"

New England has made a two-game jump per season under Fairbanks' direction. The Pats were 3-11 in '72 before the 5-9 in '73 and the 7-7 last year. Another such improvement would put the club into the fringe of the playoff area, and Patriot fans haven't experienced any post-season involvement since way back in 1963.

If the advancement is to continue, Fairbanks thinks his club must continue the progress it has made in the running game—both moving its own, and stopping the other guy's. This is his theory of the game, controlling the ground war offensively to set up, and defensively to force, the desired passing situations.

In '73 the Patriots were dead last in the NFL in stopping the run. Last season they were first in the conference and fourth overall. In Fairbanks' first season the Pats were 23rd out of 26 moving the ball on the ground. Last year they were sixth.

The pass defense, however, was ineffective and particularly prone to long gainers. And Plunkett, for all his success, still threw 22 interceptions, high mark in the league. So Fairbanks' real area of concern might be that zone a few yards above the playing surface through which airborne footballs pass on their way to unknown destinations.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Entering his fifth year, Plunkett still is a good distance from

No. 16-Jim Plunkett No. 73.-John Hannah

No. 42—Mack Herron

No. 39—Sam Cunningham

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

the fulfillment of his immense promise. Yet it isn't because he's not trying. Plunkett works hard at his trade which is one of the most difficult of any in professional sports. Plunkett's completion percentage was 49, and Fairbanks would like to see it at 56. The 22 interceptions actually were an increase of five from the previous year but there also was an upping of the TD total, from 13 to 19. The 6-2, 210-pounder also scrambled for 161 yards, demonstrating his ability to get out of danger. So as long as he's healthy, Plunkett should alleviate any of Fairbanks' worries about quarterbacking. But the backup field is open: Neil Graff, a free agent who last summer used the strike period to display his talents and hook on; Dick Shiner, 33, who's talked of retirement; and Steve Grogan, a fifth-round draft pick with the size (6-4, 200) and arm but questionable stats from his college days at Kansas State.

Running backs—Cunningham was well on his way to a 1000-yard season when he was injured in the 10th game and missed the rest of the year. He wound up with 811 yards and nine TDs, and at 6-3, 224 should be the Pats' big back for a long time. Herron scooted around and under defenders for 824 yards and seven scores, and at 5-5, 170 pounds should be the Pats' little back for a long time. Behind Mutt 'n Jeff, however, the situation is unsettled. Veterans Josh Ashton (99 yards), Joe Wilson (57), Leon Crosswhite (49 at Detroit), Andy Johnson (minus four) and Bob McCall (injured) are first in line. But rookies Allen Carter, Anthony Davis' backup at USC where he gained 580 yards as a senior, and Kerry Marbury of West Virginia, who has Canadian League experience, should move in on the scene somewhere.

Receivers—Injuries sidelined the two starters, Darryl Stingley and Reggie Rucker, for the second half and left little Randy Vataha as the only bona fide outside threat. Rucker, who didn't agree with some of Fairbanks' ideas, has been peddled to Cleveland, leaving the talented Stingley and clutch Vataha as starters. Again depth is a question, although Lawrence Williams of Texas Tech, a 9.7 sprinter who also returns kicks, and Steve Burks of Arkansas State, a runner-passer-receiver-punter, should help tremendously. Veteran reserves include Eddie Hinton, Steve Schubert and Al Marshall. Russ Francis, the No. 1 draft pick, may wind up as the starting tight end. He's a remarkable all-around athlete (football, basketball, baseball, track, wrestling) with exceptional speed for his size (6-6, 240). Incumbent Bob Windsor, who wrecked his knee lunging across with the winning TD against Minnesota, won't relinquish the spot without a fight. And then there's Bob Adams (who finished the year as the starter) soon to be heard from, too.

Offensive line—There was a tremendous improvement in the pass blocking, as well as increased effectiveness on the running plays, for the Pats' front wall in '74. The quarterback sacks were reduced from 37 to 21, thanks basically to the development of John Hannah. Leon Gray and Bill

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
80	Adams, Bob	TE	6-2	222	28	Pacific	6
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-3	257	27	Texas Southern	5
61	Adams, Sam	G	6-3	252	26	Prairie View	4
31	Ashton, Josh	RB	6-1	202	25	Tulsa	4
59	Barnes, Rodrigo	LB	6-1	215	25	Rice	3
	Beasley, John	TE	6-3	228	29	California	8
27	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	25	Norfolk State	4
51	Carter, Kent	LB	6-3	235	25	Southern California	2
10	Chapple, Dave	P	6-1	195	28	Cal-Santa Barbara	5
54	Clark, Gail	LB	6-3	225	24	Michigan State	3
	Corbett, Steve	G	6-4	248	24	Boston College	1
	Crosswhite, Leon	RB	6-2	215	25	Oklahoma	3
39	Cunningham, Sam	RB	6-3	224	25	Southern California	3
	Damkroger, Maury	LB	6-2	230	23	Nebraska	2
68	DuLac, Bill	G	6-4	260	24	Eastern Michigan	2
58	Dumler, Doug	C	6-3	242	23	Nebraska	3
22	Durko, Sandy	S	6-1	186	26	Southern California	5
64	Gallaher, Allen	T	6-3	255	24	Southern California	2
	Geddes, Bob	LB	6-2	240	29	UCLA	3
15	Graff, Neil	QB	6-3	200	25	Wisconsin	2
70	Gray, Leon	T	6-3	256	24	Jackson State	3
71	Hamilton, Ray	DT	6-1	245	24	Oklahoma	3
73	Hannah, John	G	6-2	265	24	Alabama	3
74	Hanneman, Craig	DE	6-4	245	26	Oregon State	4
42	Herron, Mack	RB	5-5	175	27	Kansas State	3
50	Hunt, Sam	LB	6-1	240	23	Stephen F. Austin	2
30	Jenkins, Ed	RB	6-2	210	25	Holy Cross	3
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0	204	22	Georgia	2
	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	260	23	Washington, Mo.	1
52	King, Steve	LB	6-4	230	24	Tulsa	3
67	Lenkaitis, Bill	C	6-4	250	29	Penn State	8
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3	260	25	Central State, Ohio	3
	McCall, Bob	RB	6-0	205	25	Arizona	2
34	McCray, Prentice	CB	6-1	187	24	Arizona State	2
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4	245	26	Bishop	5
88	Marshall, Al	WR	6-2	190	24	Boise State	2
	Massey, Jim	CB	5-11	198	27	Linfield	2
45	Mildren, Jack	S	6-1	200	25	Oklahoma	4
75	Moore, Arthur	DT	6-5	253	24	Tulsa	3
56	Morris, Jon	C	6-4	248	33	Holy Cross	12
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	24	North Dakota State	2
77	Neville, Tom	T	6-4	253	32	Mississippi State	11
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	212	27	Stanford	5
25	Sanders, John	S	6-1	178	25	South Dakota	2
87	Schubert, Steve	WR	5-10	185	24	Massachusetts	2
11	Shiner, Dick	QB	6-0	210	33	Maryland	12
65	Smith, Donnell	DE	6-4	252	26	Southern	4
1	Smith, John	K	6-0	185	26	England	2
84	Stingley, Darryl	WR	6-0	195	23	Purdue	3
53	Tanner, John	LB	6-4	235	30	Tennessee State	4
18	Vataha, Randy	WR	5-10	170	26	Stanford	5
	Webster, Ernie	G	6-4	245	25	Pittsburgh	1
90	Webster, George	LB	6-4	230	29	Michigan State	9
23	Wilson, Joe	RB	5-10	210	24	Holy Cross	3
86	Windsor, Bob	TE	6-4	225	32	Kentucky	9

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Francis, Russ	16	TE	Oregon
2.	Shoate, Rod	41	LB	Oklahoma
3.	Cusick, Pete	66	DT	Ohio State
4.	Carter, Allen	86	RB	So. California
	from San Diego thru Cleveland			
	Burks, Steve	91	WR	Arkansas State
5.	Grogan, Steve	116	QB	Kansas State
	Freeman, Steve	117	DB	Mississippi State
	from Philadelphia			
7.	Williams, Lawrence	172	WR	Texas Tech
11.	Garnett, Rene	272	DB	Idaho State
12.	Kendon, Matt	297	DT	Idaho State
	Holloway, Condredge	306	QB-DB	Tennessee
	from Washington			
13.	Harvey, Joe	328	DE	Northern Michigan
14.	Gossom, Tom	353	WR	Auburn
15.	Clayton, Don	378	RB	Murray State
16.	Marbury, Kerry	403	RB	West Virginia
17.	Horton, Myke	428	T	UCLA

COACHES:

CHUCK FAIRBANKS, Hank Bullough, Rollie Dotsch, Ron Erhardt, Red Miller, Ray Perkins, John Polonchek, Charlie Sumner, Jim Valek, Larrye Weaver.

DuLac. Hannah, a near All-Pro guard going into his third year, is one of the strongest blockers in the game. DuLac and veteran Sam Adams shared the other guard spot. Gray, a onetime Dolphin draft pick, came along well at left tackle in what was his second season as a starter. Center Bill Lenkaitis replaced the injured Jon Morris while veteran Tom Neville did his usual steady job at right tackle. There's a chance two of last year's rookies, Steve Corbett and Shelby Jordan, might move in at a guard and tackle, respectively. Both missed the season with injuries. Tackle Allen Gallaher and center Doug Dumler are other offensive line spares.

DEFENSE

Front three—New England's 3-4 defense puts a particular stress on the noseguard, who must fight off double and sometimes triple-team blocks most of the day. But Ray "Sugar Bear" Hamilton, one of Fairbanks' Oklahoma products, did an exceptional job clogging up the middle. Arthur Moore, his replacement, did well until going out with a knee injury late in the year. And Fairbanks drafted Ohio State's squat but strong Pete Cusick, whose 6-1, 255-pound physique is ideally suited for a noseguard. The ends, Mel Lunsford and the brilliant Julius Adams, were strong all season. In reserve are Donnell Smith, Craig Hanneman and Tony McGee, who got out of a contract with the World Football League. Adams led the team in sacks with 7½ while Hamilton and Lunsford had five apiece, and Sugar Bear came up fighting with two opposition fumbles.

Linebackers—Fairbanks collected a group of young, rugged, and reckless lads to man his four linebacking spots. And now he's added another in ex-Sooner Rod Shoate, the 6-1, 211-pound All-American many claimed was the best college player in the nation last season. Shoate is penciled in as an inside backer. The Pats already are well-stocked at those two spots with Sam Hunt and Steve Nelson, rookies last year; Bob Geddes, a retread having a superlative year until sidelined with an injury; and Rodrigo Barnes, the former Dallas bad-boy who, if harnessed, could be a brilliant player. Veterans George Webster and John Tanner played well on the outside, as did young Steve King, who chipped in with 3½ sacks (Webster had 4½) on blitzing tactics. There is plenty of depth, too, with Maury Damkroger, Kent Carter, Will Foster, and Gail Clark. The most important area of Fairbanks' defensive set already is strong in both talent and numbers, and the addition of Shoate isn't going to hurt the situation.

Secondary—Familiarization, more than anything else, is what Fairbanks hopes from his defensive backfield this year. "Five of the seven players we had last year were new," he explained. "They should improve as they get accustomed to each other." Among the newcomers were cornerback John Sanders, a rookie from South Dakota who wound up second on the team with five interceptions; free safety Jack Mildren, Fairbanks' former wishbone quarterback at Oklahoma, who picked off three passes; and strong safety Prentice McCray, a Lion reject who also had three pass thefts. They joined right corner Ron Bolton, who had seven interceptions, in the starting lineup. Veteran Sandy Durko, ex-Dolphin Dave McCurry, and former Ram Jim Massey were last year's subs. Fairbanks did not draft heavily in the defensive backfield, although he added Mississippi State's Steve Freeman as a cornerback on the fifth round. Condredge Holloway, Tennessee's brilliant athlete, was set for a trial here but he signed in Canada where he'll get a chance to play quarterback, his college position.

Special teams—A big plus for the '74 Pats was the placekicking of Englishman John Smith, who booted 16 of 22 field goals, missing only once inside 30 yards. Dave Chapple, who had some good years with Los Angeles, took over as the punter in midseason but logged only a 37.2 average. He'll have to improve on that. Herron alone is a one-man kick return unit, especially on punts where he averaged 14.8 per try. Schubert and Johnson helped out last year, but Williams, Allen Carter and Freeman could possibly threaten from the hopeful rookie ranks.

No. 1—John Smith

No. 72—Mel Lunsford
No. 90—George Webster

No. 85—Julius Adams

1974 Season Results

NEW ENGLAND (7-7-0)

34	*Miami	24
28	N.Y. Giants	20
20	*Los Angeles	14
42	*Baltimore	3
24	N.Y. Jets	0
28	Buffalo	30
17	Minnesota	14
28	*Buffalo	29
14	*Cleveland	21
16	*N.Y. Jets	21
27	Baltimore	17
26	Oakland	41
17	*Pittsburgh	21
27	Miami	34

* DENOTES HOME GAME

BALTIMORE COLTS

HEAD COACH TED MARCHIBRODA

It's only 40 miles up Interstate 95 from Washington to Baltimore. But those 40 miles represent an almost complete change of football lifestyle for Ted Marchibroda.

The Colts' new head coach is facing a rugged transition period in his first season away from George Allen's Redskin staff. First, there is the elevation from assistant to head coach. It's a move many topflight aids just can't handle. Howard Schnellenberger, the last man on whom Baltimore pinned its hopes, didn't negotiate the hurdle. Yet, under better circumstances, he might have done well.

Secondly, Marchibroda is moving from a winning atmosphere to one of near total defeat. The Colts emerged triumphant just twice last season while the Redskins scrambled into the playoffs for the fourth straight time. The new honcho is going to have to bring a winning atmosphere with him up the Interstate.

And finally Marchibroda will have to learn a few things about the generation gap. At Washington he dealt basically with players who knew the way around the National Football League. In fact one of his "pupils," quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, played against the 44-year-old coach back in 1957.

The Colts, however, have the league's lowest maturity factor (see page 89). They list only eight players with more than five years' NFL experience. Four of those, safety Rick Volk, linebacker Mike Curtis, punter David Lee and tackle Dennis Nelson, were members of the 1970 Baltimore squad which captured Super Bowl V on Jim O'Brien's (where is he now?) field goal.

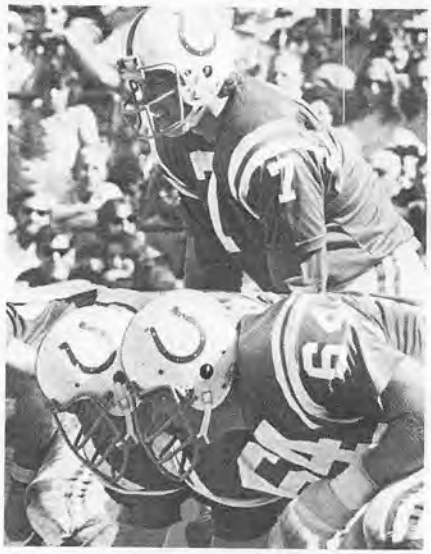
It's been a constant sag since those final glory days for the once-proud Colts. The only records the Baltimore team has set in recent years have been the number of draft picks it has garnered each January. Last year general manager Joe Thomas picked 26 players, surpassing the old record of 25 set the season before by, yep, the Baltimore Colts.

Thomas, who was forced to finish out the last season as head coach, is in the midst of a building program he patented first at Minnesota and then at Miami. In this case, however, it's more of an urban renewal project. Thomas first had to tear down the championship squad to build what he hopes some day will be another potent force in the NFL.

Meanwhile, however, the Colts have gone through a period of ferment starting back in 1972, when Thomas dismissed the late Don McCafferty when the coach refused to go along with Marty Domres, instead of John Unitas, as his quarterback. Ironically, Schnellenberger was fired last year when he opposed a switch from Domres to Bert Jones, a switch favored by Robert Irsay, the Colts' chief bill-payer.

After a little more than half a season as coach and general manager, Thomas decided it was best for him to remain in the front office. So the search was on for a new field leader.

"It didn't matter which way I analyzed the situation," Thomas said.



No.7-Bert Jones No.64-David Taylor

No. 14—Marty Domres

No. 32—Mike Curtis

No. 87—Ray Chester

"Ted Marchibroda's name kept surfacing as our top choice. He has directed the offense of a winning team for nine years and this past season the 'Skins led the league with more than 2800 yards passing, even though the running game was burdened by injuries."

Still the low-key Marchibroda faces a tremendous task. "I believe in execution, in balance, in consistency," he said. "That's what we are going to need if the Colts are to win."

That, plus a lot of patience, a little luck and a free hand at just who is going to play quarterback, and other positions.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Jones moved one giant step ahead of Domres last year, and now is the man to beat. He finished with a brilliant throwing afternoon against Joe Namath and the Jets (36 for 53, including a record 17 straight, for 385 yards and four TDs) to up his final season totals to 53 percent completions, 1610 yards, and eight scores. "I think the worst is behind him," said Marchibroda of the 23-year-old Jones, No. 1 pick in the entire 1973 draft. "But Marty offers us another fine performer. He's had six years' experience in the league and handles himself well." Domres completed 50 percent of his tosses but had no TD aerials and 12 interceptions in '74. Behind the two are rookie Steve Joachim, the Maxwell Award winner from Temple, and Bill Troup, who appeared in only one game last fall.

Running backs—Lydell Mitchell has been the Colts' top offensive weapon for the past two seasons, and last year rushed for 757 yards besides leading the AFC in receiving with 72 catches. In '73 Mitchell gained 963 yards on the ground. His running mate will be Bill Olds, a 225-pounder who blasted out 475 yards last year. Don McCauley backs up both spots after having started at each during his four NFL campaigns. Thomas' draft included two intriguing prospects, either of whom could change drastically the running back setup. Texas' Roosevelt Leaks looked like a sure pro prospect in '73 but several knee operations relegated him to a fifth-round draft status. If the 5-11, 220-pounder with 4.6 speed regains his form, he could be a big plus. So might Marshall Johnson, a 4.5 sprinter from Houston where he gained 845 yards and averaged six yards per try as a senior. Still there was some question about his attitude, which Marchibroda must solve. Johnson could give the Colts a breakaway threat lacking since the days of Lenny Moore.

Receivers—Two of 1974's 25 draft picks, Roger Carr and Freddie Scott, could be the starting wide receivers when the season begins. Carr, out with a pulled hamstring early last year, wound up with 21 catches and a 19.3 average per reception. The 6-3, 200-pounder was a first-round draft pick in '74. Scott, a seventh-round selec-

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
36	Andrews, John	TE	6-3	227	26	Indiana	4
63	Barnes, Mike	DE	6-6	255	24	Miami	3
84	Berra, Tim	WR	5-11	185	23	Massachusetts	2
51	Bertuca, Tony	LB	6-2	225	25	Chico State	2
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-3	200	23	Louisiana Tech	2
87	Chester, Raymond	TE	6-4	235	27	Morgan State	6
66	Collett, Elmer	G	6-4	240	30	San Francisco State	9
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-3	235	23	Southern Mississippi	2
32	Curtis, Mike	LB	6-2	232	32	Duke	11
55	Dickel, Dan	LB	6-3	220	23	Iowa	2
14	Domres, Marty	QB	6-4	222	28	Columbia	7
35	Doughty, Glenn	WR	6-2	204	24	Michigan	4
78	Dutton, John	DE	6-6	260	24	Nebraska	2
76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	6-5	260	26	Syracuse	3
33	Hall, Randy	CB	6-3	185	23	Idaho	2
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3	205	23	Louisiana State	3
75	Kunz, George	T	6-6	268	28	Notre Dame	7
40	Laird, Bruce	S	6-0	185	25	American Internat'l	4
49	Lee, David	P	6-4	230	31	Louisiana Tech	10
2	Linhart, Toni	K	5-11	178	33	Austria Tech	3
52	MacLeod, Tom	LB	6-3	230	24	Minnesota	3
83	Mayo, Ron	TE	6-3	223	24	Morgan State	3
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1	214	26	North Carolina	5
57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6-3	235	27	Oklahoma	5
26	Mitchell, Lydell	RB	5-11	204	26	Penn State	4
28	Mul-Key, Herb	RB	6-0	190	25	None	5
31	Munsey, Nelson	CB	6-1	185	27	Wyoming	4
50	Neal, Dan	C	6-4	240	26	Kentucky	3
68	Nelson, Dennis	T	6-5	260	29	Illinois State	6
30	Nettles, Doug	CB	6-0	177	24	Vanderbilt	2
25	Oldham, Ray	CB	6-0	200	24	Middle Tenn. State	3
38	Olds, Bill	RB	6-1	224	24	Nebraska	3
37	Orduna, Joe	RB	6-0	195	26	Nebraska	4
71	Palmer, Gery	T	6-4	255	24	Kansas	1
61	Pratt, Robert	G	6-3	255	24	North Carolina	2
56	Rhodes, Danny	LB	6-2	220	24	Arkansas	2
43	Rudnick, Tim	S	5-10	185	23	Notre Dame	2
86	Scott, Freddie	WR	6-2	175	23	Amherst	2
60	Simonson, Dave	T	6-6	246	23	Minnesota	2
80	Smith, Ollie	WR	6-2	195	26	Tennessee State	3
64	Taylor, David	T	6-4	254	25	Catawba	3
12	Troup, Bill	QB	6-5	220	24	South Carolina	2
67	Van Duyne, Bob	G	6-5	235	23	Idaho	2
21	Volk, Rick	S	6-3	195	30	Michigan	9
53	White, Stan	LB	6-1	225	25	Ohio State	4
74	Williams, Steve	DE	6-6	260	24	Western Carolina	2
65	Windauer, Bill	DT	6-3	245	25	Iowa	3

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
	Huff, Ken from Atlanta	3	G	North Carolina
3.	Washington, Mike	53	DB	Alabama
	Pear, David from Chicago	56	DT	Washington
4.	Johnson, Marshall	80	RB	Houston
	Linford, Paul from New York Jets	93	DT	Brigham Young
5.	Leaks, Roosevelt	105	RB	Texas
	Westbrook, Don from New York Giants	131	WR	Nebraska
7.	Jones, Kim	157	RB	Colorado State
	Joachim, Steve from Chicago	160	QB	Temple
	Luce, Derrel from N.Y. Jets thru Chicago	168	LB	Baylor
8.	Bushong, John	184	DE	Western Kentucky
	Denboer, Greg from Chicago thru Denver	187	TE	Michigan
	Cage, Mario from Green Bay	192	RB	Northwest Louisiana
9.	McKinney, Royce	209	DB	Kentucky State
10.	Waganheim, Phil	236	P	Maryland
11.	Hazel, Dave	261	WR	Ohio State
12.	Storm, Brad	288	LB	Iowa State
13.	Roman, John	313	G	Idaho State
14.	Smith, Mike	339	C	Southern Methodist
15.	Goodie, John	365	RB	Langston
16.	Malouf, Bill	392	QB	Mississippi
	Evavold, Mike from San Francisco	399	DT	MacAlester
	Smith, Robert from Oakland	419	DB	Maryland
17.	McKnight, David	416	LB	Georgia
	Bengard, Mike from San Francisco	426	DE	Northwestern, Iowa
	Russell, Frank from Oakland	440	WR	Maryland

COACHES:
TED MARCHIBRODA, Maxie Baughan, George Boutselis, Whitey Dovell, Frank Lauterbur, Pete McCulley, Jerry Smith.

tion, wound up with 18 catches and is pushing veteran Glenn Doughty at flanker. Doughty, outstanding in '73, slumped to 24 grabs in 1974 but still is the most experienced pass catcher in the crew. Also around are Timmy Berra, son of you-know-who, Ollis Smith and rookie Don Westbrook. Ray Chester had a solid season (37 catches) at tight end and should be even better in '75. There is plenty of depth, too, with Ron Mayo, John Andrews (a running back last year) and rookie Greg DenBoer of Michigan.

Offensive line—This has been the No. 1 order of business on the Colt agenda. First, the top draft pick in the world was dealt to Atlanta for All-Pro tackle George Kunz. Then the Falcons' No. 1 choice, obtained with Kunz, was spent on guard Ken Huff of North Carolina, who has everything to become a starter as a rookie. And finally a draft choice was sent to Pittsburgh for Ed George, a Canadian League all-star tackle for several seasons. So three newcomers could join guard Elmer Collett and center Ken Mendenhall on the front. That would mean loss of jobs for tackles Nelson and Dave Taylor, and a demotion of sorts for second-year guards Bob Van Duyne and Robert Pratt. Still they would provide much-needed depth, as would center Dan Neal and tackles Dave Simonson and Gesy Palmer. Colt passers were dumped an atrocious total of 48 times last season, one reason for the overhaul. Kunz and Huff, especially, should help cut down on that total.

DEFENSE

Front four—The Colts are molding a new front wall which could rate with the Marchetti - Lipscomb - Donovan - Joyce and the Bubba-Newsome-Miller-Hilton quartets in a few years. John Dutton and Fred Cook, two members of the Class of '74, moved right in as ends and both made the All-Rookie team. Dutton, at 6-6, 260, particularly was effective while Cook has been working with weights to build his 6-3, 235-pound frame. Joe Ehrmann has become a team leader at one tackle while Bill Windauer, the other starter, may be pushed by squat Dave Pear, a third-round draft pick from Washington. Pear has tremendous strength and agility to make up for his short-by-NFL-standards (6-2) size. Paul Linford, a fourth-round pick from Brigham Young, and veterans Mike Barnes, a onetime starter at end, and Steve Williams give Marchibroda lots of depth on the front four. The sack total of 21, however, must be increased in '75.

Linebackers—One of the least appreciated of Thomas' deals was the one which sent Ted Hendricks to Green Bay for Tom MacLeod. While Hendricks did go on to another All-Pro season, Thomas didn't exactly get chopped liver in return. MacLeod is a fine linebacker himself and was among the team leaders in tackles. He joins the great Curtis, who had a sensational season in 1974, and Stan White as the starting trio. The set is particularly quick and while not overly large, pacts a solid wallop. Special teams aces Tony Bertuca, Danny Rhodes and Dan Dickel are the top reserves. Draft help could come from Derrel Luce, one of the stars of the surprising Baylor team of last fall, and Brad Storm, who was something of a tempest (162 tackles) at Iowa State. Another candidate is Glenn Robinson of Oklahoma State, a third-round pick who signed last year with the WFL and didn't play because of injury.

Secondary—Volk, 30, is the senior citizen of this otherwise kiddie-corps group. But the onetime All-Pro safety had an off-season in 1974 and Marchibroda is hoping for a bounce-back from him in '75. Bruce Laird, also a fine kick returner, teams with Volk at the safeties while Nelson Munsey and Doug Nettles, another of last year's rookies, are the incumbent cornerbacks. But room must be made for Mike Washington, the third-round pick from Alabama who at 6-3, 190 has great coverage abilities. He'll probably move in at a corner. Royce McKinney, another draft pick, rates a good shot at making the club, also, since he doubles as a punt returner.

No. 26—Lydell Mitchell

That would leave young vets Ray Oldham, Randy Hall and Tim Rudnick battling for the other spot. And don't overlook rookie Billy Malouf out of Mississippi or safety James Sims, who spent last season in the WFL.

Special teams—Toni Linhart, an Austrian sidewheeler, handled the placekicking chores more than adequately last year, solving a problem which appeared to start after O'Brien's game winner in Super V. Lee, the punter who knows the taste of Super Bowl punch, fell off to a 37.1 average last year to rank fourth from the bottom in the AFC. So Phil Waganheim, a 42.2 punter for Maryland, was drafted on the 10th round as competition. Laird, who averaged 26.3 on kickoff returns, and Berra are the key runback men. There are plenty of rookie hopefuls in this area, including the aforementioned Johnson, Westbrook and McKinney, plus running back Mario Cage and defensive back Bob Smith.

No. 78—John Dutton

1974 Season Results

BALTIMORE (2-12-0)

0	Pittsburgh	30
13	*Green Bay	20
10	Philadelphia	30
3	New England	42
14	*Buffalo	27
35	N.Y. Jets	20
7	Miami	17
14	*Cincinnati	24
6	*Denver	17
17	Atlanta	7
17	*New England	27
0	Buffalo	6
16	*Miami	17
38	*N.Y. Jets	45

* DENOTES HOME GAME

"CLEANING THE COLTS' STABLE"

Joe Thomas' attempt to sweep completely clean at Baltimore caused so many veteran players to move along that the team's maturity factor dropped to 1.94 by the end of the 1974 season, and that's the lowest year-end mark since Cincinnati's 1.83 in 1970.

(For new readers, the maturity factor is the average number of years of previous professional experience per player on the team's current active roster. It reflects the fact that winning teams usually are mature teams. Over a period of 10 years, the more mature teams have a huge edge in every charted won/lost comparison over their lesser experienced rivals.)

In 1974, a long-standing theory, in existence since the charts were first kept in 1965, went down the rivers in Pittsburgh. For the first time, a team from the lower half of the maturity chart went to the Super Bowl—and won! The Steelers, actually fielding a younger team than in 1973, were 19th on the list, maturity-wise, but first in the standings as well as in the hearts of the western Pennsylvanians.

But lest those who have doubted the consistency of the maturity factor take too much heart in the Steelers' upsetting performance, it should be made clear that the top five teams in the 1974 maturity charts all made the playoffs, plus the 9th team (St. Louis).

As always, a George Allen team, the Redskins, led in maturity. The Skins' 6.02 was the highest season-end mark since the charts have been kept. And George's teams usually make the playoffs, justifying his accent on non-youth.

On a 10-year perspective, the factor has indicated that a team can be "old" and not win, for reasons of luck, injuries, quality of coaching, or just because that team became elderly with the wrong players. But until the amazing '74 Steelers turned it around, young teams never have dominated a season. It might be a fair premise to say that Chuck Noll has the secret of compressing time to make mature players of near-green talent.

Meanwhile, running in second place, as usual, in the maturity charts were the Minnesota Vikings, creaking along at a past-middle-age 5.13 and an impressive 10-4-0.

THE MATURITY FACTOR (1974)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (3.39) (181-181-2)

AMERICAN CONFERENCE (3.15) (93-87-2)

EASTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor (2.88)		Actual Finish (36-34-0)	
Miami	4.66	Miami	11-3-0
New York Jets	3.15	*Buffalo	9-5-0
Buffalo	2.58	New York Jets	7-7-0
New England	2.06	New England	7-7-0
Baltimore	1.94	Baltimore	2-12-0

CENTRAL DIVISION

Maturity Factor (2.77)		Actual Finish (28-27-1)	
Cincinnati	3.02	Pittsburgh	10-3-1
Cleveland	2.94	Cincinnati	7-7-0
Pittsburgh	2.72	Houston	7-7-0
Houston	2.59	Cleveland	4-10-0

WESTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor (3.88)		Actual Finish (29-26-1)	
Oakland	4.64	Oakland	12-2-0
Kansas City	4.09	Denver	7-6-1
Denver	3.68	Kansas City	5-9-0
San Diego	3.09	San Diego	5-9-0

* 4th best finisher

NATIONAL CONFERENCE (3.63) (88-94-0)

EASTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor (3.81)		Actual Finish (37-33-0)	
Washington	6.02	St. Louis	10-4-0
Dallas	3.85	*Washington	10-4-0
St. Louis	3.77	Dallas	8-6-0
New York Giants	2.98	Philadelphia	7-7-0
Philadelphia	2.45	New York Giants	2-12-0

CENTRAL DIVISION

Maturity Factor (3.62)		Actual Finish (27-29-0)	
Minnesota	5.13	Minnesota	10-4-0
Green Bay	3.60	Detroit	7-7-0
Detroit	3.38	Green Bay	6-8-0
Chicago	2.38	Chicago	4-10-0

WESTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor (3.42)		Actual Finish (24-32-0)	
Los Angeles	4.17	Los Angeles	10-4-0
San Francisco	4.13	San Francisco	6-8-0
Atlanta	3.06	New Orleans	5-9-0
New Orleans	2.32	Atlanta	3-11-0

* 4th best finisher

"THE STABLE VIKINGS DOMINATE"

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

HEAD COACH BUD GRANT

We're not rebuilding. We're not decimated by injuries. We have experience at key positions. We have talented players. We probably aren't going to be picked as one of the two teams that will go to the Super Bowl, but we weren't picked last year, either."

This is Bud Grant's evaluation of his Minnesota Vikings and the coach said it all.

The Vikings remind one of a strong challenger in boxing. Not good enough to be a champion, perhaps, but to get a title shot someone has to beat them and that isn't easy.

They've been to the Super Bowl three times and came away a loser, the last time to Pittsburgh, 16-6. Failure? Hardly. How many teams can boast of playing in one Super Bowl, let alone three?

The Vikings control their own division, the rough Central, and they always seem to find a way to win unless the're out-classed—like the Super Bowl game.

Quarterback Fran Tarkenton is one of the game's smartest operators, a man that Grant says will be remembered as an all-time great. Then there's Chuck Foreman, a super back—both as a runner and receiver.

The defense isn't as intimidating as it once was but what an opportunistic bunch they are. Blocking, intercepting passes and recovering fumbles at propitious times are part of the Viking lore.

The Vikings aren't a stylish team like, say, Oakland, nor are they as exciting as Pittsburgh or Dallas and some others. In fact, they're a plodder of sorts, but they get the job done.

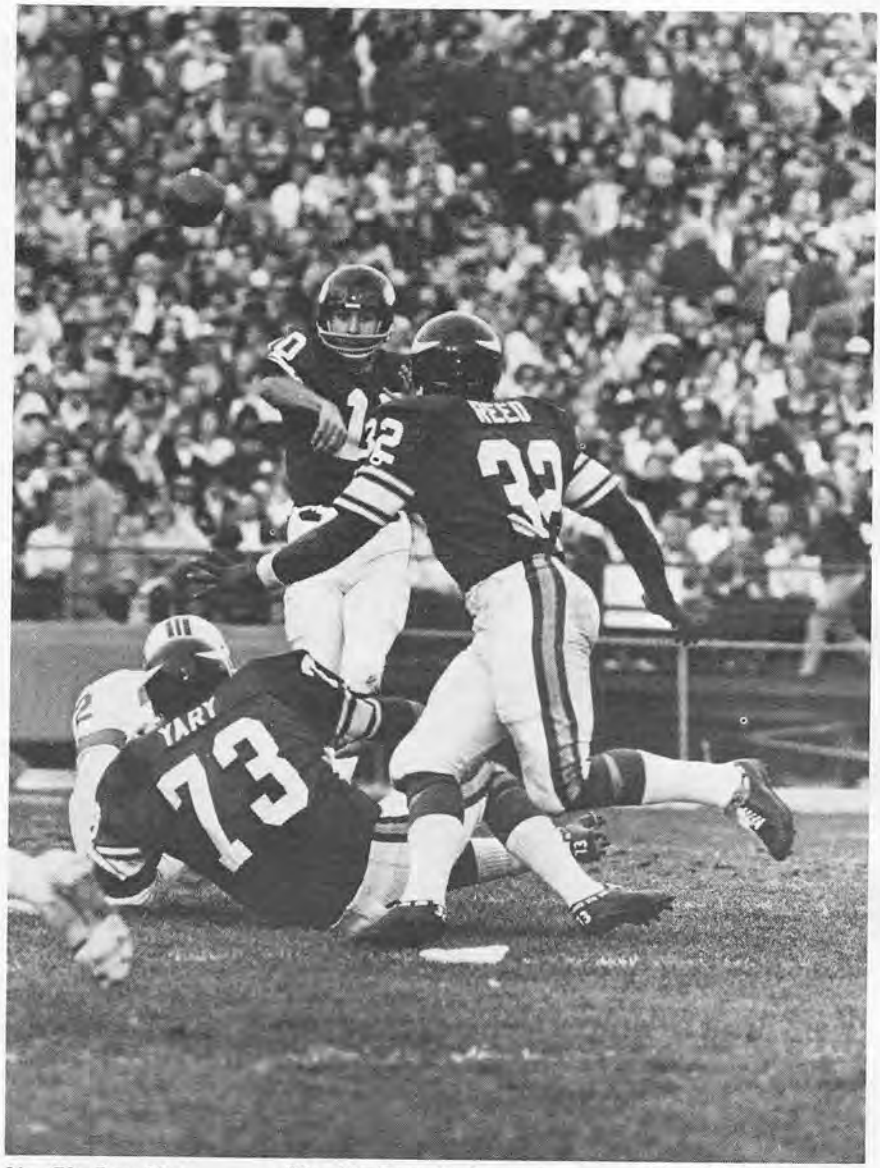
You've got to beat 'em; they won't do it themselves.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—On consistency, Tarkenton, a 15-year veteran, is probably the NFL's best quarterback. He had another good season in 1974, completing 56.7 percent of his passes for the most yardage in the NFC, 2598, and 17 touchdowns. He'll scramble if he has to but doesn't feature that phase of the game any more. The amazing thing about him is that he never has suffered a major injury. Grant says Fran hasn't lost his enthusiasm for the game at 35. "We have a comfortable situation at quarterback," the Viking coach says in an understatement. Backing up Tarkenton is Bob Berry, a reliable veteran and a former No. 1 choice and young Mike Wells.

Running backs—You start with Foreman and that's quite a start. Foreman, in only his third season, does it all. He rushed for 777 yards and caught 53 passes for 586 yards in addition to leading the NFL in touchdowns with 15. It's all done with acrobatic lateral moves, quickness and balance. He's something! Grant is still looking for a big, strong runner to complement Foreman and may have one in rookie Champ Henson of Ohio State. No matter. Dave Osborn, whom "experts" have tried to retire for years, probably will beat him out. Ozzie made a comeback last year to regain a starting job at 31. The indomitable Bill Brown finally is missing at 37. Others on hand include Ed Marinaro, Oscar Reed and Brent McClanahan.

Receivers—John Gilliam is headed for Hawaii of the WFL. There is no



No. 73—Ron Yary No. 10—Fran Tarkenton No. 32—Oscar Reed

one on the roster approaching his skill as a deep threat and this could inhibit the Viking offense that was No. 2 both overall and in passing last year.

Young Jim Lash is an improving wide receiver who averaged 19.7 yards on 32 catches last year as a starter. But, a pair of '74 rookies, John Holland or Sam McCullum, will have the big task of replacing Gilliam. Rookie Bruce Adams (No. 5) of Kansas could figure, too. Stu Voight has developed into a dependable tight end, catching 32 passes for five touchdowns in '74. He is backed up by Doug Kingsriter and Steve Craig, both fine prospects.

Offensive line—Probably the Vikings' strongest area in terms of ability and depth. Center Mick Tingelhoff, 34, is the only over-30 starter and the others are top-quality players, notably All-Pro tackle Ron Yary and guard Ed White. Yary teams with Charles Goodrum while White is paired with Andy Maurer, acquired last season from New Orleans in an astute transaction. John Ward, coming off injuries, is a strong backup at guard or center, and Grant has high expectations for tackle Steve Riley, a No. 1 choice last year. One of the league's best units.

DEFENSE

Some of the Vikes' most renowned defenders such as Jim Marshall (37), Roy Winston (35) and Carl Eller and Paul Krause (33) are getting on in age, but there's no apparent drop-off in ability.

Minnesota allowed only 195 points last season and, in playoffs, held high-scoring St. Louis to 14 points, Los Angeles to 10 and Pittsburgh to 16—one score coming late in the game when the defense was tired after being kept on the field an inordinate length of time because of the faltering offense.

Front four—All-Pro Alan Page had an outstanding year in '74 and an average season for this great tackle would suffice for most players. As for the others, Eller, Marshall and Doug Sutherland, the youngster at 27, they had an injury-free year and this is a big plus. Grant, however, hedged against retirement or injury by making defensive linemen—Mark Mullaney of Colorado State and Art Riley of USC—his 1-2 picks in the draft. Good depth here with the highly regarded rookies along with Bob Lurtsema, the "fifth man" in Grant's effective five-man rush line on passing situations.

Linebackers—Another strong area. Veteran starters in Winston and Wally Hilgenberg on the outside, Jeff Siemon in the middle, a young pro, and some promising backup talent in Fred McNeill, Amos Martin and Matt Blair. Vikes have agile, 220-pound types mainly as opposed to the 240 pounders of other years. New concept in the NFL.

Secondary—Should be improved if cornerback Bobby Bryant rebounds from a broken arm suffered in the league opener. Jackie Wallace had some rough moments as Bryant's replacement but played his best game of the season in the Super Bowl. Nate Wright was steady at left cornerback. Rival teams don't throw often down the middle or in Paul Krause country, limiting the veteran's interception opportunities. Grant says Jeff Wright (no relation to Nate) is the perfect strong safety—a sure tackler with instincts. Again, there's reserve strength in Randy Poltl, Terry Brown and Joe Blahak. The Vikings ranked only 10th in NFC in pass defense, allowing an average of 168.8 yards a game. But this could be a spurious statistic because Minnesota permitted only eight touchdown passes, an NFC low, and intercepted 22.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
56	Anderson, Scott	C	6-4	234	24	Missouri	2
17	Berry, Bob	QB	5-11	185	33	Oregon	11
21	Blahak, Joe	CB	5-10	188	25	Nebraska	3
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	229	24	Iowa State	2
71	Boone, Dave	DE	6-3	248	24	Eastern Michigan	2
24	Brown, Terry	S	6-2	205	28	Oklahoma State	6
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1	170	31	South Carolina	7
14	Cox, Fred	K	5-10	200	36	Pittsburgh	13
84	Craig, Steve	TE	6-3	231	24	Northwestern	2
52	Cureton, Gregg	LB	6-2	223	28	Tennessee	1
	Danmeier, Rick	K	5-11	214	22	Sioux Falls	1
45	Dixon, Alan	RB	5-11	200	24	Texas Christian	1
11	Eischeid, Mike	P	6-0	190	34	Upper Iowa	9
81	Eller, Carl	DE	6-6	247	33	Minnesota	12
44	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2	207	25	Miami	3
68	Goodrum, Charles	T	6-3	256	25	Florida A&M	3
58	Hilgenberg, Wally	LB	6-3	229	33	Iowa	12
85	Holland, John	WR	6-0	190	25	Tennessee State	2
89	Kingsriter, Doug	TE	6-2	222	25	Minnesota	3
22	Krause, Paul	S	6-3	200	35	Iowa	12
82	Lash, Jim	WR	6-2	199	24	Northwestern	3
65	Lawson, Steve	G	6-3	265	26	Kansas	5
75	Lurtsema, Bob	DE-DT	6-6	250	33	Western Michigan	9
49	Marinaro, Ed	RB	6-2	212	24	Cornell	4
70	Marshall, Jim	DE	6-4	240	37	Ohio State	16
55	Martin, Amos	LB	6-3	228	26	Louisville	4
66	Maurer, Andy	G	6-3	275	27	Oregon	6
33	McClanahan, Brent	RB	5-10	202	24	Arizona State	3
80	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	203	23	Montana State	2
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	229	25	UCLA	2
41	Osborn, Dave	RB	6-0	208	32	North Dakota	11
88	Page, Alan	DT	6-4	245	30	Notre Dame	9
29	Poltl, Randy	S	6-3	190	25	Stanford	2
32	Reed, Oscar	RB	6-0	222	31	Colorado State	8
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	258	25	Southern California	2
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	25	Stanford	4
69	Sutherland, Doug	DT	6-3	250	27	Superior, Wis.	6
10	Tarkenton, Fran	QB	6-0	190	35	Georgia	15
53	Tingelhoff, Mick	C	6-2	240	35	Nebraska	14
83	Voigt, Stu	TE	6-1	225	27	Wisconsin	6
25	Wallace, Jackie	CB	6-3	197	24	Arizona	2
72	Ward, John	G	6-4	250	27	Oklahoma State	4
15	Wells, Mike	QB	6-5	225	24	Illinois	1
62	White, Ed	G	6-3	280	28	California	7
60	Winston, Roy	LB	5-11	222	35	Louisiana State	14
23	Wright, Jeff	S	5-11	190	26	Minnesota	5
43	Wright, Nate	CB	5-11	180	28	San Diego State	7
73	Yary, Ron	T	6-6	255	29	Southern California	8

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Mullaney, Mark	25	DE	Colorado State
2.	Riley, Art	52	DT	So. California
4.	Henson, Harold from Cincinnati	89	RB	Ohio State
	Adams, Bruce	103	WR	Kansas
5.	Miller, Robert	129	RB	Kansas
6.	Broussard, Bubba	155	LB	Houston
7.	Greene, Henry	181	RB	Southern
8.	Hollimon, Joe	207	DB	Arkansas State
9.	Passananti, John	233	G	Western Illinois
10.	Clabo, Neil	258	P	Tennessee
11.	Spencer, Ike	285	RB	Utah
12.	Beamon, Autry	311	DB	East Texas State
13.	Hurd, Mike	336	WR	Michigan State
14.	Strickland, Mike	363	RB	Eastern Michigan
15.	Bakken, Ollie	388	LB	Minnesota
16.	Goedjen, Tom	414	K	Iowa State
17.	Bellizeare, Adolph	441	RB	Penn State

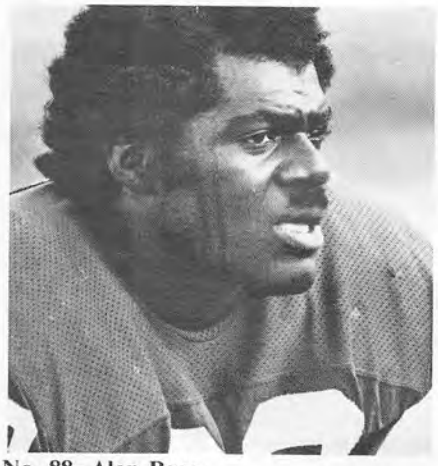
COACHES:
BUD GRANT, Neill Armstrong, Jerry Burns, Bus Mertes, John Michels, Jocko Nelson, Jack Patera.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Special teams—Uncertain only because placekicker Fred Cox and punter Mike Eischeid haven't indicated whether they'll return. Neither Eischeid (36.1 average) nor Cox (12 of 20 field goals, nine missed extra points) is coming off a particularly good season. But Cox has been one of the NFL's most consistent kickers since the Lou Groza era. Grant says Cox, 36, a 13-year vet, really never has had a bad year. Otherwise coverage against punts and kickoffs is more than adequate. Return specialists are Wallace (punts) and McClanahan (kickoffs). They could catch but couldn't run.

No. 70—Jim Marshall

No. 81—Carl Eller



No. 88—Alan Page

No. 44—Chuck Foreman

No. 41—Dave Osborn

1974 Season Results
MINNESOTA (10-4-0)

32	Green Bay	17
7	Detroit	6
11	*Chicago	7
23	Dallas	21
51	*Houston	10
16	*Detroit	20
14	*New England	17
17	Chicago	0
28	St. Louis	24
7	*Green Bay	19
17	Los Angeles	20
29	*New Orleans	9
23	*Atlanta	10
35	Kansas City	15

* DENOTES HOME GAME

GREEN BAY PACKERS

HEAD COACH BART STARR

Packer fans, perhaps the most loyal in the NFL, have hungered for another Vince Lombardi era when Green Bay was known as Titletown, U.S.A. Phil Bengston couldn't bring it about and, except for one division championship in 1972, Dan Devine, now the Notre Dame coach, was unsuccesful.

Enter Bart Starr. A Packer legend. All-American boy, man. Sincere, dedicated, respected. But inexperienced as a head coach.

Starr, a prospering businessman, didn't need the Green Bay job from a financial standpoint. But he looks on it as a challenge and, as he says, he wouldn't have taken it if he didn't believe he could win.

He inherits a discontented team, one that complained of Devine's aloofness. More disconcerting is a Green Bay offense that was the sixth worst in the NFL. The defense, however, is stable.

But offense apparently is the former great quarterback's forte. When Starr assisted Devine in '72, he called the plays from the sidelines, got the most out of a mediocre quarterback, Scott Hunter, as the Packers scored 304 points and marched to a 10-4 record.

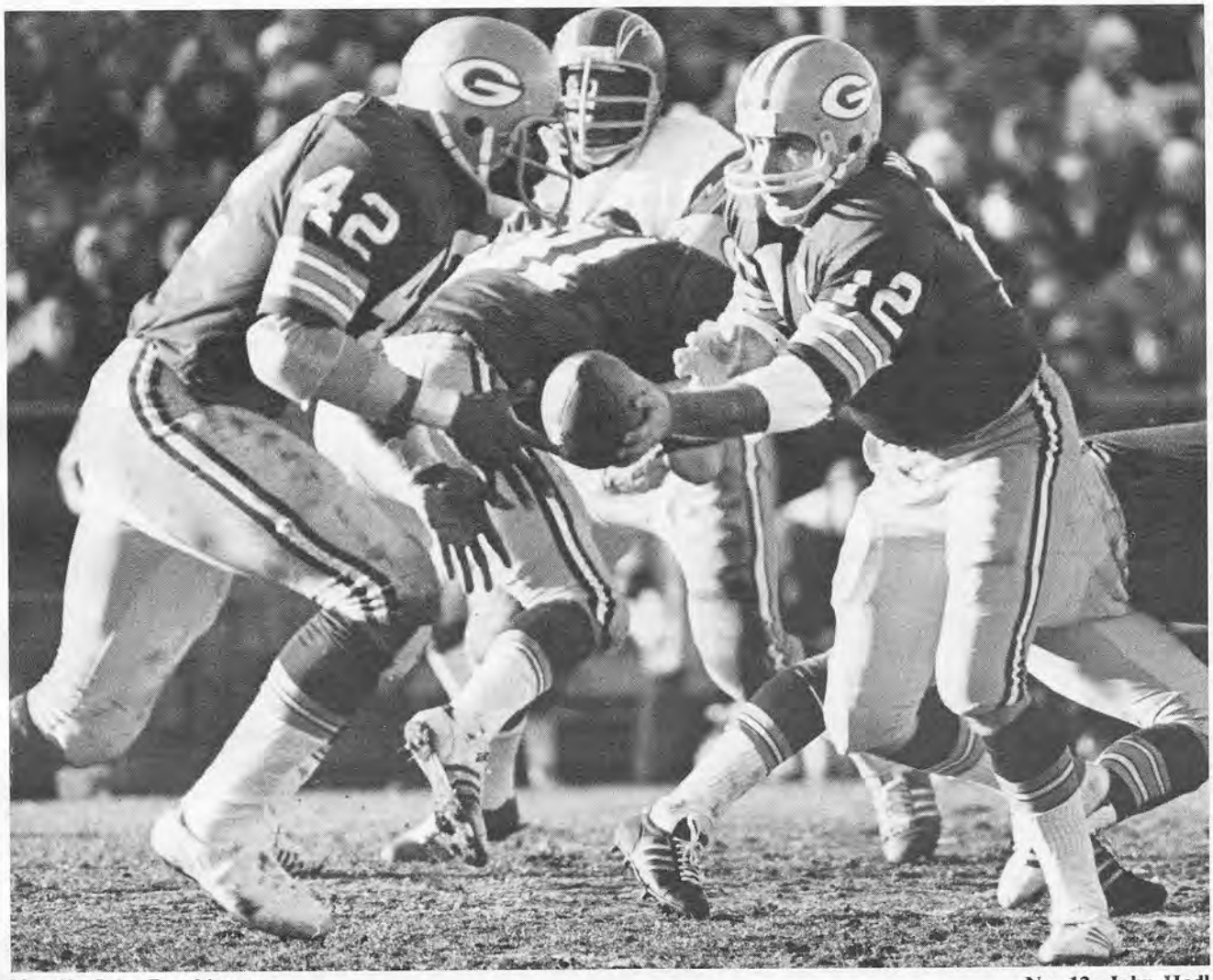
In Devine's other seasons, all losing ones, Green Bay averaged only 228 points.

Clarence Davis, a defensive end, recalls Starr's contribution: "I know what he did for us the year we won the divisional championship. I think he played a big role. He knew more about the offensive game than those other coaches did. I think he had a tremendous influence on us winning that year."

Starr's task is far from hopeless. The Packers were 6-8 last year without much offense and offense is Starr's bag.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—John Hadl didn't become a Packer until mid-season in the blockbuster trade with the Rams, who hauled away five high draft choices. It took the 13-year veteran a while to get acquainted with the Green Bay offense but he should be more effective this season with a training camp be-



No. 42—John Brockington

No. 12—John Hadl

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

GREEN BAY PACKERS

hind him—if his arm doesn't betray him. His arm bothered him at the end of his MVP season in '73 and might have contributed to the trade, although all parties deny it. Anyway, Hadl easily is the best Packer quarterback since Starr retired. Jerry Tagge, the former No. 1, is a lumbering sort without much of a passing touch. Other reserves are the veteran Jack Concannon and rookie Carlos Brown of Pacific (No. 12), tabbed as a "sleeper" by Starr.

Running backs—For whatever reason, an injured offensive line or lack of a passing attack, the once strong Green Bay running game was ineffective in '74. John Brockington fell below 1000 yards (883, 3.3 average) for the first time in his four-year career. MacArthur Lane could gain only 362 yards, and a sub-par 2.6 average. Les Goodman, Steve Odom and Barty Smith were the seldom-used reserves. More outside speed is needed and that's what prompted the drafting of Willard Harrell of Pacific on the third round of the draft.

Receivers—Jon Staggers is the only proven wide receiver but he doesn't have the necessary size or speed to match the skills of other NFL receivers. However, he gets the most out of his ability, is a fine blocker and averaged 14.4 yards on 32 catches. The other outside receiver, Barry Smith, hasn't developed as expected. And the Packers didn't get any help in the draft. They had only three selections in the first six rounds. There's stability at tight end, though, as Rich McGeorge is coming into his own and caught a career high 30 passes last season for the Pack.

Offensive line—The blockers have been plagued by injuries the past two years. Gale Gillingham, a former All Pro, has had knee surgery twice since '72 and may not come back. Tackle Dick Himes and guard Bill Lueck played while hurt and Lueck had off-season knee surgery. Tackle Bill Hayhoe, guard Bruce Van Dyke, center Ken Bowman and rookie guard Bart Purvis were of injured reserve status last season. Himes and Keith Wortman wound up as starting tackles with Gillingham, Lueck or Malcolm Snider at guard and young pro Larry McCarren at center. Correspondingly, Starr made guard Bill Bain of USC his first choice on the second round.

DEFENSE

The Packer defense, coordinated by Dave Hanner who has been retained by Starr, ranked sixth overall and fifth in points allowed in the NFL. With more help from the offense, it could become an even better unit.

Front four—End Alden Roche and tackle Mike McCoy had their best seasons in '74, but end Clarence Williams was inconsistent after playing commendably in '72 and poorly in '73. Tackle Dave Pureifory was the starter at the outset of the season but he was replaced by Steve Okoniewski. Depth could be a problem if Aaron Brown doesn't recover from a torn Achilles tendon suffered in the second game.

Linebackers—Probably the most stabilizing force in the Packer defense. Could be again if Ted (the Stork) Hendricks doesn't fulfill his WFL commitment. Hendricks, a big play guy, blocked seven kicks, intercepted five passes, recovered a fumble and was named MVP. The other outside backer, Fred Carr, finally played to his capabilities last season, while Jim

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
49	Askson, Burt	TE	6-2	225	29	Texas Southern	3
42	Brockington, John	RB	6-1	225	26	Ohio State	5
74	Brown, Aaron	DE	6-5	270	32	Minnesota	8
28	Buchanon, Willie	CB	6-0	190	24	San Diego State	4
53	Carr, Fred	LB	6-5	240	29	Texas-El Paso	8
50	Carter, Jim	LB	6-3	245	27	Minnesota	6
10	Concannon, Jack	QB	6-3	200	32	Boston College	11
58	Cooney, Mark	LB	6-4	230	23	Colorado	2
52	Curry, Bill	C	6-2	235	32	Georgia Tech	11
86	Donohoe, Mike	TE	6-3	230	30	San Francisco	6
48	Ellis, Ken	CB	5-10	195	27	Southern	6
71	Fanucci, Mike	DE	6-4	242	26	Arizona State	4
68	Gillingham, Gale	G	6-3	265	31	Minnesota	10
25	Goodman, Les	RB	5-11	206	25	Yankton	3
12	Hadl, John	QB	6-1	214	35	Kansas	14
21	Hall, Charley	CB	6-1	190	27	Pittsburgh	5
77	Hayhoe, Bill	T	6-8	260	29	Southern California	6
51	Hefner, Larry	LB	6-2	230	26	Clemson	4
56	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	220	27	Miami	7
39	Hill, Jim	S	6-2	195	28	Texas A&I	7
72	Himes, Dick	T	6-4	260	29	Ohio State	8
55	Jenke, Noel	LB	6-1	225	28	Minnesota	5
31	Jones, Spike	P	6-2	195	28	Georgia	5
11	Jones, Ray	DB	6-0	185	27	Southern U.	4
30	Krause, Larry	RB	6-0	208	27	St. Norbert	6
36	Lane, MacArthur	RB	6-1	220	33	Utah State	8
23	Leigh, Charlie	RB	5-11	206	29	None	7
62	Lueck, Bill	G	6-4	250	29	Arizona	8
13	Marcol, Chester	K	6-0	190	26	Hillsdale	4
43	Mason, Dave	S	6-0	195	25	Nebraska	3
29	Matthews, Al	S	5-11	190	27	Texas A&I	6
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	248	24	Illinois	3
76	McCoy, Mike	DT	6-5	275	26	Notre Dame	6
81	McGeorge, Rich	TE	6-4	230	26	Elon	6
70	Nystrom, Lee	T	6-5	260	24	Macalester	3
84	Odom, Steve	WR	5-8	165	22	Utah	2
73	Okoniewski, Steve	DT	6-4	252	26	Montana	4
85	Payne, Ken	WR	6-1	185	24	Langston	2
75	Pureifory, Dave	DE	6-1	255	25	Eastern Michigan	4
64	Purvis, Bart	G	6-4	240	23	Maryland	1
87	Roche, Alden	DE	6-4	255	29	Southern	6
79	Schuh, Harry	T	6-3	260	32	Memphis	11
80	Smith, Barry	WR	6-1	190	24	Florida State	3
33	Smith, Barty	RB	6-4	240	23	Richmond	2
45	Smith, Perry	CB	6-1	195	24	Colorado State	3
22	Staggers, Jon	WR	5-10	180	26	Missouri	6
17	Tagge, Jerry	QB	6-2	215	25	Nebraska	4
59	Toner, Tom	LB	6-3	235	25	Idaho State	3
26	Torkelson, Eric	RB	6-2	194	22	Connecticut	2
61	Van Dyke, Bruce	G	6-2	255	31	Missouri	9
18	Walker, Randy	P	5-10	177	23	Northwest Louisiana	2
20	Widby, Ron	P	6-4	220	30	Tennessee	7
83	Williams, Clarence	DE	6-5	255	28	Prairie View	6
65	Wortman, Keith	G	6-2	250	25	Nebraska	4
60	Zaunbrecher, Godfrey	C	6-2	240	28	Louisiana State	4

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	Selection	Pos.	College
2.	Bain, Bill from Washington	47	G	Southern California
3.	Harrell, Willard from San Diego	58	RB	Pacific
4.	Luke, Steve	88	DB	Ohio State
7.	Giaquinto, Tony	165	WR	Central Conn. State
9.	Hodgin, Jay	217	RB	South Carolina
10.	Cooke, William	244	DE	Massachusetts
11.	Martin, Bob	269	DE	Washington
12.	Brown, Carlos	296	QB	Pacific
13.	Fuhriman, Bob	321	DB	Utah State
14.	Blackmon, Stan	348	TE	North Texas State
15.	Allen, Randy	373	WR	Southern
16.	Mc Caffrey, Bob	400	C	So. California
17.	Ray, Tom	425	DB	Central Michigan

COACHES:
BART STARR, Zeke Bratkowski, Lew Carpenter, Jim Colbert, Dave Hanner, Billy Kinard, Bob Lord, Leon McLaughlin, John Meyer, Paul Roach.

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 50–Jim Carter

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 56–Ted Hendricks

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 53–Fred Carr

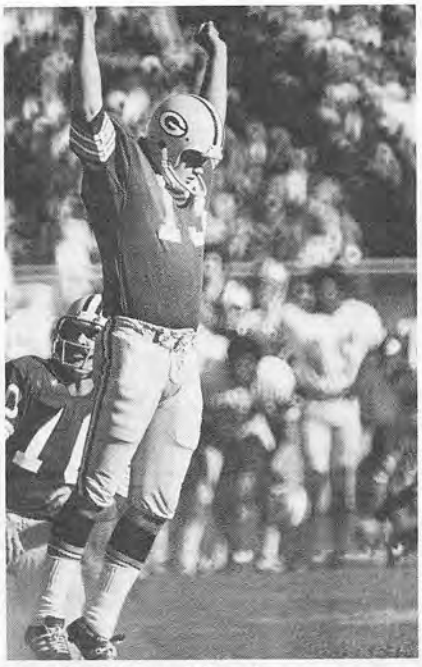


PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 13–Chester Marcol

Carter was steady in the middle. If Hendricks doesn't return, second-year pro Tom Toner, injured in '74, is the likely replacement.

Secondary–The Packer secondary, although fourth rated in NFC pass defense, had some breakdowns last year–mainly at free safety where Jim Hill resides. He could lose his job to veteran reserve Charlie Hall or rookie Steve Luke (No. 4) of Ohio State. Cornerback Willie Buchanon didn't come all the way back from a broken leg until late in the season. He has talent, though. So does Ken Ellis, another big-play man, but an average tackler. The least distinguished player in the deep defense, strong safety Al Mathews, graded out better than most of the others.

Special teams–This is a very special department for Packers. Specialty units accounted for 106, or more than half of team's 210 total points. Chester Marcol, the soccer-style kicker, was the Packer offense. He led the NFC with 25 of 39 field goals, 18 of 22 inside the 40. But the punting game could improve. Randy Walker averaged 38.4 yards and will be challenged by Ron Widby, coming back from an injury, and free agent Spike Jones, formerly with Buffalo. Steve Odom and Jon Staggers shared punt return duties, averaging 12.7 and 10.1 yards. But Odom, a 5-8, 175-pound rookie, didn't do as well on kickoff returns. Coverage was excellent as opponents averaged 21.6 on kickoffs and 7.4 yards on punts.

1974 Season Results
GREEN BAY (6-8-0)

17	*Minnesota	32
20	Baltimore	13
21	*Detroit	19
7	*Buffalo	27
17	*Los Angeles	6
9	Chicago	10
17	Detroit	19
6	*Washington	17
20	*Chicago	3
19	Minnesota	7
34	*San Diego	0
14	Philadelphia	36
6	San Francisco	7
3	Atlanta	10

* DENOTES HOME GAME

DETROIT LIONS

HEAD COACH RICK FORZANO

The Lions are in a rut. They've finished second in Minnesota's division, the Central, the past six years. They were 7-7 last season, reflecting their overall record, 28-25-3, for the last four seasons. They don't have an easy time winning or losing. Their first four losses in '74 were by a total of 14 points; they won their next four by a total of 15 points and 10 of their 14 games were decided by seven points or less.

There's some outstanding talent but not enough of it. On offense, the Lions didn't have a running game but they had a creditable passing attack implemented by Bill Munson.

The defense, 20th ranked in the league, is hampered by an inconsistent line and linebacking play but is bolstered by a classy secondary.

But it's a young team that should improve if draft choices come through and the club could get a morale-boosting lift by playing in "Ponmet," the new, 80,000-seat stadium in suburbia. Goodbye to old Tiger Stadi-

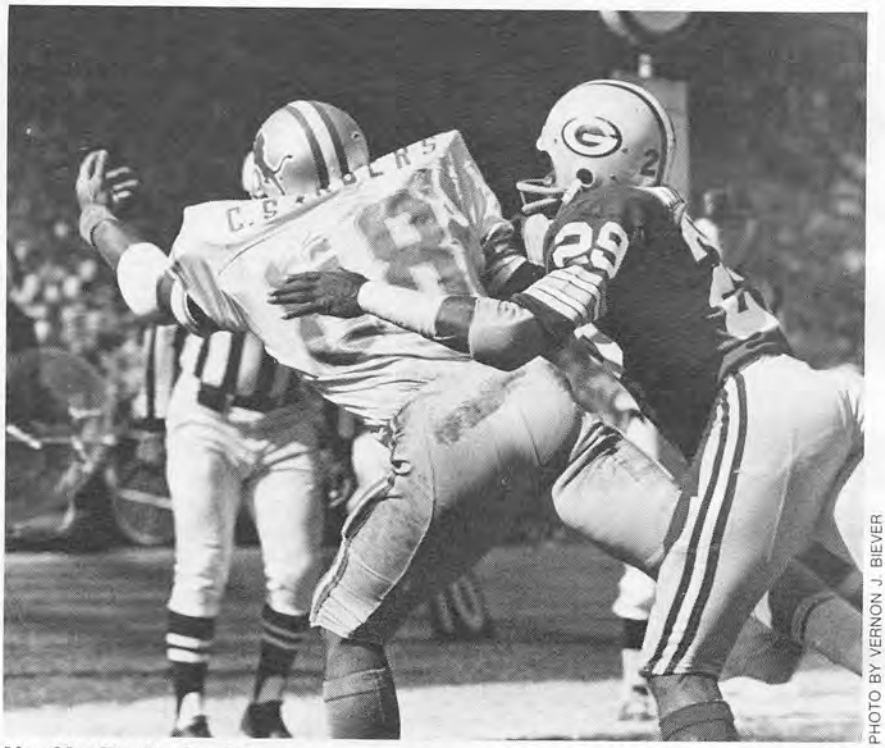
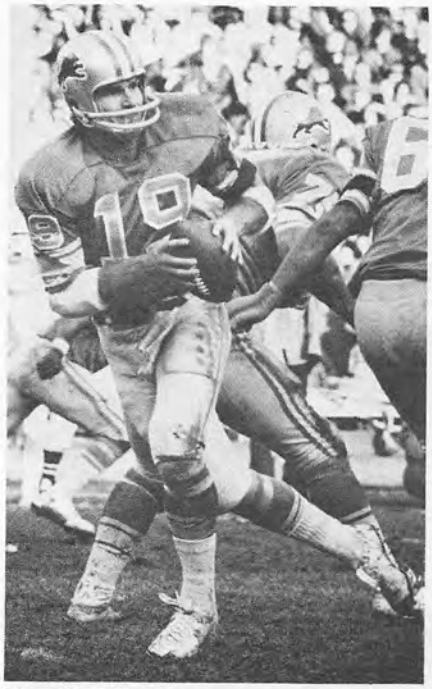
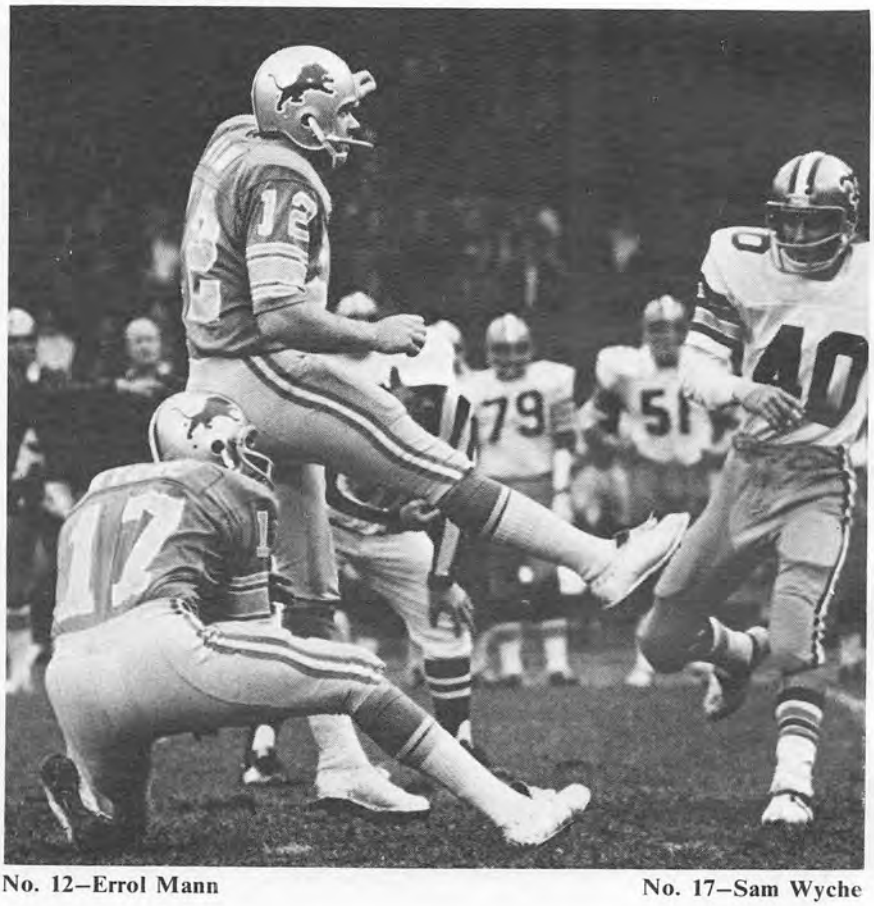


PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 88—Charlie Sanders



No. 19—Bill Munson



No. 12—Errol Mann

No. 17—Sam Wyche

um, a baseball park but a great place to watch a football game.

That the Lions could finish 7-7 is a tribute to their character and coach Rick Forzano's leadership after popular head coach Don McCafferty died during the pre-season. Forzano, with little time to prepare for his sudden promotion, did a creditable job. But his real test will come this season. He shook up his coaching staff and the new 10-man staff is the largest in the club's history.

Blue-chip players, not assistants, are needed more.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Same old story. Bill Munson or Greg Landry. Munson, who had lost his job to Landry a few years ago, regained it when Landry fractured a shoulder in pre-season. Munson contends he was already the new No. 1. Anyway, the 12-year veteran had one of his best seasons. With no running game to complement him, he still completed 56.8 percent of his passes and was intercepted only seven times. But Munson, prone to injuries, didn't last the season. He went down in the 11th game and Landry, albeit rusty, came on to play adequately. Landry, a big, strong type who likes to run, hasn't developed into a superstar as some expected. So, in keeping with the Lions' rut for 1975, it's Munson or Landry. Or is it Landry or Munson?

Running backs—The Lions ranked 12th among 13 NFC teams in rushing because 1) Steve Owens was injured most of the season and had his knee damaged (requiring surgery) Thanksgiving Day; 2) Altie Taylor had a so-so year (532 yards); 3) there wasn't much reserve help and the line didn't provide much daylight. Forzano is still trying to trade for an established back because he didn't pick a runner until the sixth round—Horace King of Georgia. Two reserves, Jim Hooks and Dexter Bussey, didn't come all the way back from knee surgery while free agent Jimmie Jones of UCLA saw only limited action.

Receivers—Nothing wrong in this offensive area as Ron Jessie more than doubled his previous best season total with 54 catches; premier tight end Charlie Sanders equaled his best year with 42 catches and Larry Walton caught 31 passes, a high for him. But Jessie played out his option and is expected to sign with the Rams. Compensation could be a badly needed running back. Other than running backs Taylor (30 catches) and Owens (24), nobody else fielded a pass. The low-profile reserves are Ray Jarvis, Bob Pickard and T.C. Blair but Dennis Franklin, the former Michigan quarterback and a sixth-round draft pick, probably will be converted to a wide receiver.

Offensive line—The fact that Forzano made linemen Lynn Boden of South Dakota State and Craig Hertwig of Georgia his first and third draft choices tells you something. Boden is expected to step right in for Chuck Walton, traded to Denver for linebacker Bill Laskey. The tackles, Jim Yarbrough and Rocky Freitas, both 6-6, are established. So is the center, Ed Flanagan, and possibly veteran guard Bob Kowalkowski, in his 10th season. Hartwig is 6-8, Boden 6-5, giving the Lions height up front if nothing else.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
20	Barney, Lem	CB	6-0	190	29	Jackson State	9
81	Blair, T. C.	TE	6-4	220	24	Tulsa	2
68	Bonica, Chuck	G	6-1	255	25	Ohio State	1
87	Brady, John	TE	6-3	215	24	Washington	1
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	6-1	195	23	Texas-Arlington	2
46	Capria, Carl	S	6-3	185	23	Purdue	2
51	Cunningham, Dick	LB	6-2	240	30	Arkansas	7
29	Davis, Ben	CB	5-11	180	29	Defiance	8
65	Davis, Jimmie	G	6-5	250	23	Alcorn A&M	1
60	Dennis, Guy	G-C	6-2	255	28	Florida	7
	Ford, Jeff	CB	5-10	180	25	Georgia Tech	1
76	Freitas, Rockne	T	6-6	270	29	Oregon State	8
39	Frohbose, Bill	S	6-0	185	23	Miami	1
74	Hand, Larry	DE	6-4	250	35	Appalachian State	11
38	Hayes, Wendell	RB	6-1	220	35	Humboldt	11
58	Hennigan, Mike	LB	6-2	210	23	Tennessee Tech	3
30	Hooks, Jim	RB	5-11	225	23	Central State	3
70	Howard, Billy	DT	6-4	245	25	Alcorn A&M	2
45	Jarvis, Ray	WR	6-0	195	26	Norfolk State	5
26	Jauron, Dick	S	6-0	190	24	Yale	3
89	Jessie, Ron	WR	6-0	185	27	Kansas	5
23	Johnson, Levi	CB	6-3	190	24	Texas A&I	3
64	Jolley, Gordon	T	6-5	250	26	Utah	4
31	Jones, Jimmie	RB	5-10	205	25	UCLA	2
66	Kowalkowski, Bob	G	6-3	240	31	Virginia	10
11	Landry, Greg	QB	6-4	210	28	Massachusetts	8
	Laskey, Bill	LB	6-3	230	32	Michigan	10
52	Laslavic, Jim	LB	6-2	230	23	Penn State	3
	Lickiss, Hugh	LB	6-4	230	23	Simpson	1
12	Mann, Errol	K	6-0	200	34	North Dakota	8
83	Mitchell, Jim	DT	6-3	245	26	Virginia State	6
19	Munson, Bill	QB	6-2	210	34	Utah State	12
50	Naumoff, Paul	LB	6-1	215	30	Tennessee	9
55	O'Neil, Ed	LB	6-3	245	22	Penn State	2
80	Orvis, Herb	DT	6-5	240	28	Colorado	4
36	Owens, Steve	RB	6-2	215	27	Oklahoma	6
77	Patton, Jerry	DT	6-3	265	29	Nebraska	4
86	Pickard, Bob	WR	6-0	185	22	Xavier	2
72	Price, Ernie	DE	6-4	255	24	Texas A&I	3
14	Reed, Joe	QB	6-1	195	27	Mississippi State	4
61	Rothwell, Fred	C	6-3	240	22	Kansas State	2
88	Sanders, Charlie	TE	6-4	225	29	Minnesota	8
82	Sanders, Ken	DE	6-5	240	25	Howard Payne	4
84	Small, John	LB	6-4	260	28	Citadel	6
42	Taylor, Altie	RB	5-10	200	27	Utah State	7
21	Thrower, Jim	S-CB	6-2	195	26	East Texas State	6
44	Wakefield, Mark	WR	6-4	195	25	Tampa	1
49	Walton, Larry	WR	6-0	185	28	Arizona State	7
59	Weaver, Charlie	LB	6-2	220	26	Southern California	5
18	Weaver, Herman	P	6-4	210	26	Tennessee	6
28	Weger, Mike	S	6-2	200	29	Bowling Green	8
47	West, Charlie	S-CB	6-1	200	29	Texas-El Paso	8
67	White, Daryl	G	6-3	250	23	Nebraska	2
40	Wyatt, Doug	S	6-1	195	28	Tulsa	6
17	Wyche, Sam	QB	6-4	220	30	Furman	7
75	Yarbrough, Jim	T	6-5	265	28	Florida	7

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Boden, Lynn	13	G	South Dakota State
2.	English, Doug	38	DT	Texas
4.	Hertwig, Craig	94	T	Georgia
6.	Cooper, Fred from New Orleans	138	DB	Purdue
	King, Horace from New England	141	RB	Georgia
	Franklin, Dennis	144	QB-WR	Michigan
7.	Murphy, Mike	169	WR	Drake
8.	Thompson, Leonard	194	RB	Oklahoma State
9.	Strinko, Steve	219	LB	Michigan
10.	Boyd, Brad	250	TE	Louisiana State
11.	Myers, Steve	275	G	Ohio State
12.	Roundtree, Andre	300	LB	Iowa State
13.	Smith, James	325	RB	North Carolina Central
14.	Mc Millan, Jim	350	QB	Boise State
15.	Green, Rudy	375	RB	Yale
16.	Chaves, Les	406	DB	Kansas State
17.	Lancaster, Mark	431	G	Tulsa

COACHES:

RICK FORZANO, Bruce Beatty, Raymond Berry, Joe Bugel, Jim Carr, Rey Dempsey, Wally English, Jerry Glanville, Floyd Reese, Fritz Shurmur.

DETROIT LIONS

No. 36—Steve Owens

No. 42—Altie Taylor

No. 11—Greg Landry

No. 80—Herb Orvis

DEFENSE

Front four—It's nice to have four quality defensive ends but when two of them—Herb Orvis and Jim Mitchell—are out of position at tackle, then something's amiss. This is one of the Lions' problems. Otherwise, they have a proven vet in Larry Hand, who missed six games with a hamstring pull, and the other starting end, Ken Sanders, could be exceptional. Other young prospects are Ernie Price, who started a few games at end in '74 as a rookie, and Doug English, the No. 2 choice from Texas who is expected to help at tackle along with Billy Howard, just 24 like Price. Detroit's defense against the run wasn't much last season, allowing an average of 4.3 yards and 150.1 per game.

Linebackers—If everybody could coordinate his best season, then the linebacking, once a proud art in Detroit, would be more than adequate. For example, Paul Naumoff had a sub-par '73 year but was outstanding last season. But Charlie Weaver, the other outside backer, regressed from his 1973 showing. The middle is unsettled. Jim Laslavic played well in spots but his apparent replacement, Ed O'Neill, the No. 1 draft choice in '74 and Jim's ex-teammate at Penn State, didn't respond from an early season shoulder injury and was used sparingly. Still, this unit has potential. Laskey and Dick Cunningham, sidelined by shoulder surgery, lend experience. Outside rookie bet: Steve Strinko (No. 9) of Michigan.

Secondary—Strongest part of the defense. Lem Barney, in a slump, overcame personal problems and was playing well at season's end. The other cornerback, Levi Jackson, intercepted five passes, returning two for touchdowns, and became the Lions' defensive MVP. Free safety Dick Jauron started every game and made the Pro Bowl. Charlie West, ex-Viking, was the strong safety most of the season after Mike Weger hurt his knee the final pre-season game. Weger is coming back along with veteran reserves Jim Thrower, Ben Davis and Doug Wyatt and second-year men Carl Capria and Bill Frohbose.

Special teams—For the second time in the past three years, Errol Mann was the NFC's top percentage FG kicker, clicking on 23 of 32. Moreover, he broke Doak Walker's team scoring record last year and has 548 points. It was a busy season for punter Herman Weaver as he kicked 72 times. He averaged only 38.5 yards but only half of his lofty punts were returned and then only for a low 7.4 average, second-best in the NFC. Jauron was the conference's punt return leader with a 16.8 average while Jimmie Jones topped the NFC in kickoff return yardage (927) and set a club record in the process.

1974 Season Results

DETROIT (7-7-0)

9	Chicago	17
6	*Minnesota	7
19	Green Bay	21
13	Los Angeles	16
17	*San Francisco	13
20	Minnesota	16
19	*Green Bay	17
19	*New Orleans	14
13	Oakland	35
20	*N.Y. Giants	19
34	*Chicago	17
27	*Denver	31
23	Cincinnati	19
17	Philadelphia	28

* DENOTES HOME GAME

CHICAGO BEARS

"We'll win football games for the greatest organization in the history of pro football . . . the Chicago Bears are pro football, from George Halas to you. You are now the Bears, the new Bears."

These were coach Jack Pardee's first words to his new players and, finally, the Bears, an anachronism in the modern age of pro football, are seriously undertaking an era of change.

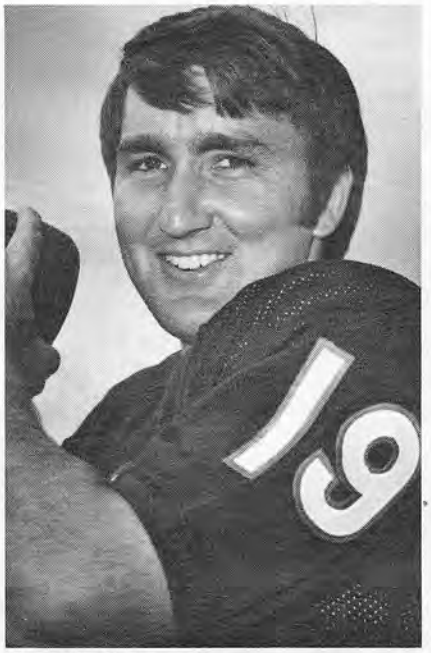
Ostensibly it is no more a family dominated operation with crusty George ruling through his son Muggs, who, in turn, relayed the party line to Abe Gibron, an old Bear retainer but now an out-of-work coach.

The Bears, seemingly out of step with the times, got with it by bringing in Jim Finks to run the organization. Finks, 46, a brilliant Minnesota Vikings executive, supposedly has *full* authority to try to bring the Bears back to respectability—and credibility—in the NFL.

HEAD COACH JACK PARDEE

Finks surprised many NFL buffs by hiring Pardee as his first coach. Pardee, a former great pro linebacker with the Rams and Redskins, has only his one year experience with the Florida Blazers of the WFL as a head-coaching credential.

But Pardee, 38, the youngest NFL coach, is steady, meticulous and apparently a leader of men. He learned his defense well under George Allen and his Blazers were the WFL's best defensive team. Pardee, only the eighth head coach in the 56-year history of the Bears, has to rebuild a 4-10 team that had a miserable of-



No. 19—Gary Huff

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 79—Lionel Antoine
No. 47—Ken Grandberry

No. 10—Bobby Douglass

CHICAGO BEARS

fense but a fair-to-middlin' defense.

He must also settle on a starting quarterback: Bobby Douglass, the runner, or Gary Huff, the passer—a dilemma that Gibron couldn't solve.

But win or lose, the Bears, identified as a penny-pinching, inbred organization with poor public relations, are trying to change their image.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Pardee says the quarterback job is wide open but adds that he doesn't want a running quarterback. That apparently would let Douglass out. Big Bobby (6-4, 228) is best in an option-type offense, not dropback passing. But Douglass signed on for a seventh season after playing out another type option. Huff, the young veteran, started fast in'74 but then went through a month long scoring drought and lost his job to Douglass in the closing weeks. Pardee contends that too much burden and blame have been placed on the quarterbacks and they didn't get enough blocking, running or receiving support. There's still some doubt whether either one is a first rate quarterback.

Running backs—"They'll love me in Chicago," predicted Walter Payton (5-10½, 200) of Jackson State, the Bears' first draft choice and first runner selected. Pardee hopes so because Chicago had an unproductive running game (1480 total yards) last season. Payton is an exciting runner and Pardee believes he fulfilled another priority by getting a big back in Cid Edwards, obtained from San Diego for a draft choice. Edwards apparently has the fullback job because the incumbent, Perry Williams, has a WFL contract. If Payton is all he says he is and Carl Garrett rebounds from ankle injuries and Ken Grandberry plays back to his rookie '74 season when he was the Bears' leading rusher (475 yards), then Pardee has more than enough halfback talent.

Receivers—Pardee is standing pat on his receiving talent, banking that the young outside people, Charley Wade, Bo Rather and Tom Reynolds, idled by a bad knee last year, will continue to develop. Wade had an auspicious start in '74, catching 2 passes for 116 yards. He went on to grab 39 for 683 yards. Rather had 29 catches, one less than Grandberry. George Farmer, once the Bears' best receiver, probably will be traded. Pardee brought one of his own Blazers with him to shore up the tight end spot: 6-2, 226-pound Greg Latta, property of Baltimore which was compensated by a draft choice. Latta doesn't seem to have much to beat in Fred Pagac and Jim Kelly for the position.

Offensive line—Pardee says the Bears can win with either Huff or Douglass if the offensive line improves. He singled out Lionel Antoine who is counted on to team at tackle with Bob Asher. There's plenty of traffic at guard where ex-Canadian Leaguer Noah Jackson and draftee Revie Sorey of Illinois are expected to challenge Ernie Janet. Bob Newton apparently is set at the other guard. So is center Rich Coady if he has recovered from a shoulder injury that required surgery.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
	Alderman, Grady	T	6-2	247	36	Detroit	16
79	Antoine, Lionel	T	6-6	263	25	Southern Illinois	4
74	Asher, Bob	T	6-6	260	27	Vanderbilt	5
18	Barnes, Joe	QB	5-11	196	23	Texas Tech	2
50	Bryant, Waymond	LB	6-3	230	23	Tennessee State	2
55	Buffone, Doug	LB	6-2	227	31	Louisville	10
60	Chambers, Wally	DT	6-6	255	24	Eastern Kentucky	3
25	Clemons, Craig	S	5-11	200	26	Iowa	4
52	Coady, Rich	C	6-3	246	30	Memphis State	6
10	Douglass, Bobby	QB	6-4	228	28	Kansas	7
37	Edwards, Cid	RB	6-2	230	32	Tennessee A&I	8
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	182	24	UCLA	3
	Ely, Larry	LB	6-1	230	27	Iowa	3
62	Forrest, Tom	G	6-2	255	23	Cincinnati	2
29	Gagnon, Dave	RB	5-10	210	23	Ferris State	2
76	Gallagher, Dave	DT	6-4	256	23	Michigan	2
26	Garrett, Carl	RB	5-10	205	28	New Mexico Highlands	7
47	Grandberry, Ken	RB	6-0	196	23	Washington State	2
30	Gunn, Jimmy	LB	6-1	218	26	Southern California	5
84	Harris, Richard	DE	6-5	255	27	Grambling	5
17	Hill, Ike	WR	5-10	179	28	Catawba	5
67	Hoban, Mike	G	6-2	235	23	Michigan	2
34	Hodgins, Norm	S	6-1	191	23	Louisiana State	2
72	Hrivnak, Gary	DE	6-5	254	24	Purdue	3
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	194	24	Florida State	3
67	Hultz, Don	DT	6-3	239	34	Southern Mississippi	13
65	Jackson, Randy	T	6-5	247	31	Florida	9
59	Janet, Ernie	G	6-4	255	26	Washington	4
	Kaczmarek, Mike	LB	6-4	235	23	So. Illinois	1
88	Kelly, Jim	TE	6-4	210	24	Tennessee State	2
63	Kinney, Steve	T	6-5	259	26	Utah State	3
31	Knox, Bill	CB	5-9	193	24	Purdue	2
33	Kosins, Gary	RB	6-2	213	26	Dayton	4
44	Lyle, Garry	S	6-2	193	29	George Washington	8
27	Montgomery, Randy	CB	5-11	185	27	Weber State	5
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-4	260	26	Nebraska	5
	Nordquist, Mark	G	6-4	246	29	Pacific	8
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	254	25	Southern	4
82	Pagac, Fred	TE	6-0	220	23	Ohio State	2
86	Parsons, Bob	TE	6-5	234	25	Penn State	4
58	Pifferini, Bob	LB	6-2	226	25	UCLA	4
80	Rather, Bo	WR	6-1	180	24	Michigan	3
87	Reynolds, Tom	WR	6-3	200	25	San Diego State	2
57	Rives, Don	LB	6-2	220	24	Texas Tech	3
15	Roder, Mirro	K	6-1	228	31	None	3
22	Taylor, Clifton	RB	5-11	200	23	Memphis State	2
20	Taylor, Joe	CB	6-0	197	34	North Carolina A&T	9
89	Tom, Mel	DE	6-4	242	34	San Jose State	9
46	VanValkenburg, Pete	RB	6-2	205	25	Brigham Young	3
83	Wade, Charlie	WR	5-10	163	25	Tennessee State	2
85	Wheeler, Wayne	WR	6-2	180	26	Alabama	2
	Wilson, Nemiah	CB	6-0	165	32	Grambling	11

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Payton, Walter	4	RB	Jackson State
2.	Hartenstine, Mike	31	DE	Penn State
4.	Livers, Virgil	83	DB	Western Kentucky
	Sorey, Revie from New Orleans	110	G	Illinois
6.	Avellini, Bob	135	QB	Maryland
	Hicks, Tom from Los Angeles thru San Diego	151	LB	Illinois
	Douthitt, Earl from Washington thru St. Louis	178	DB	Iowa
	Harris, Joe from New England	197	LB	Georgia Tech
9.	Stillwell, Roger	212	DT	Stanford
	Julius, Mike from Los Angeles	254	G	St. Thomas, Minn.
11.	Dean, Mike	264	K	Texas
12.	Plank, Doug	291	DB	Ohio State
13.	McDaniel, Charles	316	RB	Louisiana Tech
14.	Hartfield, Walter	342	RB	Southwest Texas
15.	Marcantonio, Steve	368	WR	Miami
16.	Beckman, Witt	395	WR	Miami
17.	Harper, Roland	420	RB	Louisiana Tech

COACHES:
JACK PARDEE, Bob Bowser, Ray Callahan, Brad Ecklund, Clyde Emrich, Ross Fichtner, John Hilton, Fred O'Connor, Jerry Stoltz.

DEFENSE

Pardee, a defensive oriented coach who'll work mainly with the linebackers, indicates that his changes in the Bears' defense will be more tactical than anything else. "We're changing the defense quite a bit from what they did last year," he said. "They used odd-man lines; we plan to line up in a standard 4-3. They used a lot of stunting and safety blitzes; I hope we can get a good enough pass rush so we don't have to do that."

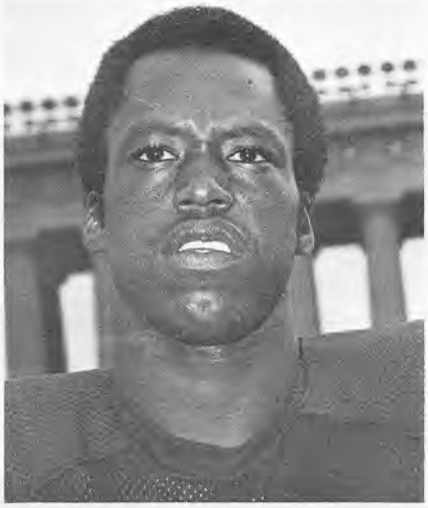
The Bears, despite their 1974 record, had a better overall defense than seven other companion NFC teams including Minnesota.

Front four—The consistent strength here comes from the tackles: Wally Chambers, one of the NFL's better pass rushers, and steady Jim Osborne. There's plenty of depth at end—if not overall quality—and the ends will be platooned in passing and running situations, retaining a Gibron ploy. Dave Gallagher, Mel Tom, Rich Harris and Gary Hrivnak are the returning veterans joined by Mike Hartenstine, the No. 2 draft choice from Penn State.

Linebackers—One of Pardee's projects is to improve the play of Waymond Bryant, the Bears' top draft pick last year who didn't live up to expectations in the middle. He has good speed and range but was slow to react at times. Bryant lost his job after six games in favor of Don Rives, smaller but more competitive. Pardee doesn't discount the possibility of moving Bryant to an outside station. If so he probably would challenge Jimmy Gunn on the right side. Old pro Doug Buffone owns the left side. Another possibility in the middle is rookie Tom Hicks of Illinois, who reportedly has recovered from a severed tendon in his foot.

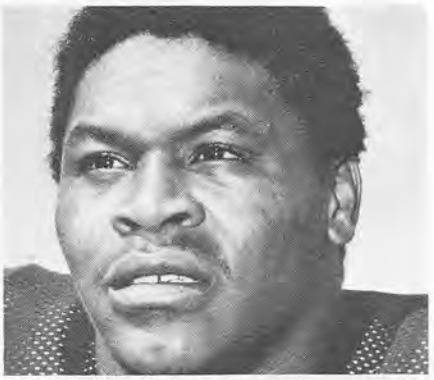
Secondary—Bear watchers were surprised that Finks didn't make deals to bolster the deep defense. Joe Taylor, once one of the best, was replaced at cornerback by Randy Montgomery late last season. The other cornerback. Allan Ellis of UCLA, was an aggressive tackler, but his size (5-10, 182) made him vulnerable in some coverages. But an even smaller back, draftee Virgil Livers, 5-8½, 176, will get a shot at cornerback although primarily he was drafted as a punt runner. Strong safety Craig Clemons is the best of the veterans while Gary Lyle is still projected as the starting free safety. Safety Earl Douthitt, a rookie (No. 7), has an outside chance in a mediocre secondary. So does old pro Nemiah Wilson, picked up from Oakland.

Special teams—Pardee (like Allen again) values special teams so much that he says the Bears could win "two, three, maybe even four games" by improvement in this area. Grandberry did okay returning kickoffs (25.8 average) but Ike Hill lapsed as a punt return specialist. Enter Livers, who returned 50 punts 545 yards including three touchdowns in college. Mirro Roder was limited to only 13 FG attempts of which nine were made because the Bears seldom ventured into scoring range in '74. He'll be pushed by long-distance placekicker Mike Dean, a Texas rookie. Dean is also a punter and will contest incumbent Bob Parsons along with—surprise—Walter Payton. Perhaps Chicago really will love him.



No. 83—Charlie Wade

No. 37—Cid Edwards



No. 26—Carl Garrett

No. 55—Doug Buffone

1974 Season Results

CHICAGO (4-10-0)

17	*Detroit	9
21	*N.Y. Jets	23
7	Minnesota	11
24	*New Orleans	10
10	Atlanta	13
10	*Green Bay	9
6	Buffalo	16
0	*Minnesota	17
3	Green Bay	20
0	*San Francisco	34
17	Detroit	34
16	*N.Y. Giants	13
21	San Diego	28
0	Washington	42

* DENOTES HOME GAME

LOS ANGELES RAMS

HEAD COACH CHUCK KNOX

Last spring, the Rams hosted a party for the media to show their 1974 highlight film titled, "One Step Closer." Carroll Rosenbloom, the owner, predicted that the theme of next year's film would be "The Rams Took It All." "As sure as day follows night, we should win the Super Bowl next season," Rosenbloom said. "I'm not interested in being just one step closer."

The tone of the owner's statement was more like an ultimatum than a prediction. When he bought the Rams three years ago he promised a Super Bowl championship for Los Angeles fans in the near future. Obviously, to borrow a cliche from George Allen, he believes the future is now.

Because of injuries, bad luck and other unforeseen factors, it's difficult to pick the team that will "take it all" but the Rams are as good a bet as any NFL contender. Consider this:

—Coach Chuck Knox, in two seasons as Ram coach, has compiled an impressive 22-6 record.

—The Rams made it to the playoffs in 1973 and were eliminated by Dallas in the opening round game. Last year, they got by the opener, Washington, and were edged by Minnesota, 14-10, in a game that was even closer than the score indicated.

—The Rams don't have a glaring weakness. They're sound defensively, have a mistake-free offense led by a bundle of good running backs and a quarterback, James Harris, who could achieve star status.

—They're almost a cinch to win their division because of the caliber of opposition and the easiest schedule in the league. The Rams meet only four teams in 1975 that had .500 or better records last year.

Rosenbloom is impatient and so, perhaps, are Rams fans who haven't been rewarded with a championship team since 1951. But the successful owner, a Super Bowl winner at Baltimore, may be ahead of his time table. By Knox's progression, the Rams should make it to the title game but lose. The big win comes in 1977 at the Rose Bowl.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Seldom has a contending team made such a bold trade as the Rams did after the sixth game

No. 30—Lawrence McCutcheon

No. 85—Jack Youngblood

No. 73—Charlie Cowan

No. 12—James Harris

No. 71—Joe Scibelli

No. 29—Harold Jackson

last season when they sent quarterback John Hadl, the 1973 NFC MVP, to Green Bay for five valued high draft choices including the Packers' first round picks in 1975 and '76. It wasn't a gamble. Harris, the strong, young veteran—curiously a Buffalo castoff—delivered under pressure in leading the Rams to seven wins in the remaining nine regular season games and capped his season by being named MVP in the Pro Bowl. Harris, a quiet, popular athlete, can flick a ball 50 yards. He's accurate, too (the NFC's No. 2 passer), and adds a running dimension to the quarterback position that Hadl didn't have. He should improve through experience. Ron Jaworski, the backup, is known as the Youngstown Rifle. He was impressive in limited appearances with his quick release. And the Rams may have picked up a future "sleeper" by drafting USC's Rose Bowl winning quarterback, Pat Haden, on the seventh round. Haden has a two-year commitment as a Rhodes Scholar but will work out with the Rams each summer.

Running backs—The Rams were still a prolific running team in 1974 although reliable halfback Jim Bertelsen, one of the league's best blockers, was hampered by minor injuries until late in the season. But Lawrence McCutcheon had an All-Pro type year. He broke his own club rushing record by gaining 1109 yards, averaging 4.7. He was also the leading receiver with 39 catches for 406 yards in the Rams conservative pass offense. The Rams still have that enviable depth with short-yard specialist Tony Baker, Rob Scribner, Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti and old pro Les Josephson backing up McCutcheon and Bertelsen. Cullen Bryant was used as running back in pre-season but only on speciality units during the season.

Offensive line—Finally, this venerable gang was broken up when center Ken Iman, 36, was traded to St. Louis for a draft choice. But the nucleus of one of the league's best blocking lines remains: guards Joe Scibelli, 36, and All-Pro Tom Mack, 31; tackles Charley Cowan, 37, and John Williams, 29. Rich Saul, an active reserve for five years, is expected to replace Iman. Bill Curry, an old pro, was traded to Green Bay where his career began. Aware that Scibelli and Cowan have reached a precarious NFL age, the Rams used two of their three first-round choices to draft linemen Dennis Harrah of Miami and Doug France of Ohio State. Returning reserves are Tim Stokes and Greg Horton. Al Oliver joins from the WFL.

Receivers—Although Harold Jackson can fly, more overall speed is needed on the outside. Jack Snow, in his 11th season, is a smart pattern runner. Lance Rentzel, returning after a year's suspension, alternated with Snow as play-calling messengers. Hadl had early passing problems and, coupled with

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
35	Baker, Tony	RB	5-11	215	30	Iowa State	8
45	Bertelsen, Jim	RB	5-11	205	25	Texas	4
90	Brooks, Larry	DT	6-3	255	25	Va. State-Petersburg	4
32	Bryant, Cullen	RB	6-1	218	24	Colorado	3
11	Burke, Mike	P-K	5-10	188	25	Miami	2
22	Cappelletti, John	RB	6-1	217	24	Penn State	2
44	Clark, Al	CB	6-0	185	27	Eastern Michigan	5
73	Cowan, Charlie	T	6-4	265	37	N. Mexico Highlands	15
88	Curran, Pat	TE	6-3	238	29	Lakeland	7
10	Dempsey, Tom	K	6-1	265	28	Palomar Junior College	7
37	Drake, Bill	S	6-1	195	25	Oregon	3
89	Dryer, Fred	DE	6-6	240	29	San Diego State	7
42	Elmendorf, Dave	S	6-1	195	26	Texas A&M	5
46	Fink, Mike	CB	5-11	185	24	Missouri	2
36	Geddes, Ken	LB	6-3	235	27	Nebraska	5
4	Guthrie, Grant	K	6-1	225	27	Florida St.	3
12	Harris, James	QB	6-4	210	28	Grambling	6
63	Horton, Greg	G	6-4	245	24	Colorado	1
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	29	Jackson State	8
16	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	185	24	Youngstown State	2
51	Johnson, Sam	LB	6-3	225	23	Arizona State	1
76	Jones, Cody	DE-DT	6-5	240	24	San Jose State	2
62	Jones, Tom	G	6-3	255	25	Northern Iowa	1
34	Josephson, Les	RB	6-1	207	33	Augustana	11
52	Kay, Rick	LB	6-4	235	25	Colorado	2
54	Kelso, Al	C	6-6	255	24	Washington	1
80	Klein, Bob	TE	6-5	235	28	Southern California	7
65	Mack, Tom	G	6-3	250	31	Michigan	10
39	McCoy, Mike	S-CB	5-11	180	23	Western Kentucky	1
30	McCutcheon, Lawrence	RB	6-1	205	25	Colorado State	3
24	McGee, Willie	WR	5-11	178	25	Alcorn A&M	3
41	McMillan, Eddie	CB	6-0	190	23	Florida State	3
15	Milan, Don	QB	6-3	200	26	Cal-San Louis Obispo	2
67	Nelson, Bill	DT	6-7	270	27	Oregon State	5
83	Nelson, Terry	TE	6-2	230	24	Arkansas AM&N	2
74	Olsen, Merlin	DT	6-5	270	34	Utah State	14
57	Peterson, Jim	LB	6-5	240	25	San Diego State	2
20	Preece, Steve	S	6-1	195	28	Oregon State	7
27	Ray, David	K-P	6-0	195	30	Alabama	7
19	Rentzel, Lance	WR	6-2	202	31	Oklahoma	10
64	Reynolds, Jack	LB	6-1	232	27	Tennessee	6
58	Robertson, Isiah	LB	6-3	225	26	Southern	5
17	Sanger, Rich	P	6-0	215	23	Nebraska	1
61	Saul, Rich	C-G	6-3	235	27	Michigan State	6
71	Scibelli, Joe	G	6-0	255	36	Notre Dame	15
33	Scribner, Rob	RB	6-0	200	24	UCLA	3
48	Simpson, Bill	S	6-1	180	23	Michigan State	2
84	Snow, Jack	WR	6-2	190	32	Notre Dame	11
66	Stein, Bob	LB	6-3	235	27	Minnesota	7
78	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	25	Oregon	2
82	Stowe, Otto	WR	6-2	188	26	Iowa State	5
47	Stukes, Charlie	CB	6-3	212	31	Maryland State	9
26	Walker, Donnie	S	6-2	180	24	Central State, Ohio	3
75	Williams, John	T	6-3	256	29	Minnesota	8
85	Youngblood, Jack	DE	6-4	255	25	Florida	5
53	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	239	25	Tennessee Tech	3

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Fanning, Mike from Green Bay	9	DT	Notre Dame
	Harrah, Dennis from Philadelphia	11	T	Miami
	France, Doug	20	T	Ohio State
2.	Jackson, Monte from Baltimore thru Green Bay	28	DB	San Diego State
	Jones, Leroy	48	DE	Norfolk State
	Reece, Geoff from Green Bay	61	C	Washington State
	Nugent, Dan from Philadelphia	67	TE	Auburn
4.	Perry, Rod	98	DB	Colorado
5.	Hammond, Wayne from Kansas City	112	DT	Montana State
	Nuzum, Rick	126	C	Kentucky
	Mc Carthy, Darius from Green Bay	140	WR	South Carolina State
7.	Haden, Pat	176	QB	So. California
8.	Washington, John	204	DB	Tulane
9.	Riegel, Gordon	229	LB	Stanford
11.	Strickland, Howard	281	RB	California
12.	Williams, Chandler	307	WR	Lincoln
13.	Jacobs, A.J.	332	DB	Louisville
14.	Allen, Arthur	360	WR	Clark
15.	White, Alvin	385	QB	Oregon State
16.	Reynolds, Francis	410	RB	Alcorn A&M
17.	Boyd, Skip	438	P	Washington

COACHES:
CHUCK KNOX, Ed Alsman, Leeman Bennett, Tom Catlin, Jack Faulkner, Ray Malavasi, Ken Meyer, Elijah Pitts, Ray Prochaska, Jim Wagstaff.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

the Rams' run-oriented offense, the wide receivers weren't spotlighted. But they're intelligent and experienced. Otto Stowe, once a promising wide receiver with Miami and Dallas, could give the Rams that shot of speed they need. Bob Klein, considered by many the best blocking tight end in the league, had an outstanding season. Despite limited pass catching opportunities, he caught 21, two for touchdowns and punished tacklers. His backup, Pat Curran, could be a starter with some other teams. Terry Nelson, the No. 3 TE, has promise.

DEFENSE

The Rams have had a tradition of robust defenses since the days of the original Fearsome Foursome. It still prevails. The Rams allowed the fewest points (181) in the NFL in '74, No. 2 ranked overall in the NFL and conference leader in quarterback sacks (44).

Front four—Merlin Olsen had in '74 what many consider the best season for the much-honored 13-year veteran and that tells you something about the front four. Olsen is the unquestioned leader, surrounded by talent: fast Fred Dryer and strong Jack Youngblood on the outside and young, steady Larry Brooks inside. Dryer and Youngblood accounted for 27 of the 44 sacks. The reserve strength is there, too—Cody Jones, Bill Nelson and an aspiring NFL star, Mike Fanning of Notre Dame, the Rams' first draft pick.

Linebackers—The unit of Jack Reynolds, middle; Isiah Robertson and Ken Geddes, outside, has been together for two years and it's a good one. Reynolds is tough, steady; Robertson is an All-Pro type who runs like a halfback after an interception (his 59-yard TD run beat Redskins in the playoffs) and Geddes is underrated and a sure tackler. Like the front four, the reserves are top rate: Jim Peterson, Jim Youngblood (no relation), Bob Stein, a special teams star, and Rick Kay, who returns from a knee injury that sidelined him last season.

Secondary—This group was maligned at times last year mainly because 1) cornerback Eddie McMillan couldn't play back to his promising rookie year and lost his job to Al Clark, a journeyman; 2) Bill Simpson, a rookie and a good prospect was learning free safety after ousting Steve Preece; and 3) the fact the unit suffers by comparison with the front four and backers. Strong safety Dave Elmendorf and cornerback Charlie Stukes, a nine-year veteran, are the steadiest defenders and each intercepted seven passes. There's some concern about this position, though, as the Rams drafted four cornerbacks including Monte Jackson of San Diego State (No. 2) and Rod Perry of Colorado (No. 4).

Special teams—There were problems last season among center, holder and kicker (David Ray) on the field goal team. Ray, nine of 16 on FGs last year, will be challenged by Tom Dempsey, NFL record holder (63 yards) acquired from Philadelphia, and Grant Guthrie, who played for Jacksonville of the WFL last season. Mike Burke wound up as the Ram punter after Dave Chapple skidded from a 44.2 yard average to 35.4 after six games and was released. Burke is a pin-point coffin-corner punter—not much for average (37.0). Rookie Skip Boyd of Washington may press him, or free agent Rich Sanger. Bertelsen is the leading active punt runner in NFC (12.0 avg. '74). Bryant has straight-away speed and power and averaged 26.8 yards on kick-off returns.

No. 22—John Cappelletti

No. 42—Dave Elmendorf

No. 64—Jack Reynolds

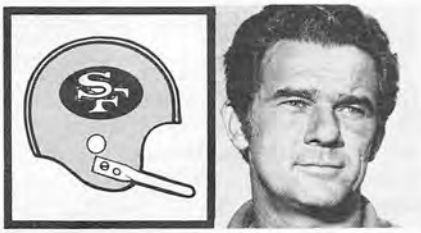
1974 Season Results

LOS ANGELES (10-4-0)

17	Denver		10
24	*New Orleans		0
14	New England		20
16	*Detroit		13
6	Green Bay		17
37	*San Francisco		14
20	N.Y. Jets		13
15	San Francisco		13
21	*Atlanta		0
7	New Orleans		20
20	*Minnesota		17
30	Atlanta		7
17	*Washington		23
19	*Buffalo		14

* DENOTES HOME GAME

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



HEAD COACH DICK NOLAN

If either young Tom Owen or Steve Spurrier proves to be a worthy successor to John Brodie . . . if the defense gets a lift from some draftees . . . if the 49ers can avoid injuries to key players then, perhaps, they may challenge the Rams in the NFC West.

Obviously, there are too many "ifs" with a team that is trying to find its identity after winning division titles three straight years (1970-72).

Coach Dick Nolan is optimistic because his team, a staggering 2-7 at one time, won four of its last five games to finish 6-8 in 1974. But the 49ers weren't beating much down the stretch—Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans and the like.

More significant, the 49ers couldn't even beat the Rams when they were winning titles and now have lost nine straight to their old Southern California rival.

It's not coincidental that the 49ers have declined since Brodie announced his retirement during the 1973 season. Nolan started four different quarterbacks in the first nine games last year, finally settling on Owen, a virtual walk-on who was retained last summer because of the veterans' strike.

Spurrier, ostensibly the No. 1 quarterback, separated his shoulder in the final pre-season game against the Rams and forfeited the season. Joe Reed and Dennis Morrison, both since released, and much-traveled Norm Snead got six turns before Owen took over at quarterback.

The 49ers always have been an offense oriented team and if Owen, a poised competitor despite his inexperience, continues to improve, they still will be. Nolan has a good offensive line when healthy, some young, talented running backs led by Wilbur Jackson and an outstanding receiver in Gene Washington.

But on defense the front four hasn't been as intimidating since Charley Krueger retired and Earl Edwards was traded to Buffalo. Nolan always is trying to find a replacement for Frank Nunley at middle linebacker and Jim Johnson, the great cornerback, may retire this year.

The 49ers have enough talent to be a contender if everything breaks their way and the draftees—five of the first seven were defensive players—come through to some degree.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Spurrier, the former Heisman Trophy winner from Florida, has had a star-crossed career in San Francisco, what with playing behind

PHOTO BY FRANK RIPPON

No. 14—Tom Owen

PHOTO BY FRANK RIPPON

No. 37—Jimmy Johnson

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Brodie and then getting injured when the team was his. He expects to be traded. If so, Owen, who made the All-NFL rookie team in '74, must deliver. He threw 10 touchdown passes in seven starts but was hesitant to unload the ball, partly accounting for 25 sacks, 202 yards lost. Snead, a 15-year veteran with bad knees, is destined to be a backup. Craig Kimball, a free agent rookie from San Jose State, could contest Snead.

Running backs—Jackson, NFC rookie running back of the year, has deceptive lateral moves and gained 705 yards (4.1 average) after overcoming early-season injuries. He teams with Larry Schreiber, a tough-running veteran, who netted 634 yards. Three '74 rookies—Del Williams, Sammy Johnson and Manfred Moore—all showed ability and Williams could be a wide receiver. Newcomers include Notre Dame power runner Wayne Bullock, a fifth-round choice, and ex-UCLA star Kermit Johnson, who has signed a multi-year 49er contract. Johnson played his rookie pro year with the WFL Sun, but became a WFL free agent when the Sun apparently failed to live up to its contract with Johnson.

Receivers—The unsettled quarterback situation inhibits a fine set of receivers. The fluid Washington ranks among the league's best, averaging 21.2 yards on only 29 catches in 1974. Veteran Danny Abramowicz, one of the league's slickest pattern runners, and quick Terry Beasley, previously injury-jinxed, were Nolan's play messengers at the other outside station. Experienced Tom Mitchell is the No. 1 tight end, since Ted Kwalick, once of All-Pro stature, has signed a three-year pact with Philadelphia of the WFL. Other returnees include Robert West and Mike Bettiga.

Offensive line—A capable unit when healthy but more backup strength is needed. Veteran tackle Rohde, 37, may retire because of a recurring back problem. Other incumbents are tackle Cas Banaszek, guards John Watson, Woody Peoples and Randy Beisler and center Forrest Blue, who has been an All Pro. Such youngsters as Jean Barrett, a starter in four games last year, Keith Fanhorst and Bob Penchion will be the depth along with Jeff Hart, a 6-5, 266-pound rookie (No. 3 DC) from Oregon State.

DEFENSE

Front four—Cedrick Hardman and Tommy Hart are capable as outside rushers but tackles Bill Belk, Bob Hoskins and Stan Hindman will be fending off such youngsters as Bill Sandifer of UCLA, the No. 1 choice in '73, Jimmy Webb of Mississippi State, the No. 1 choice in '74, and Wayne Baker (No. 3) of Brigham Young. Other aspiring rookies are Cleveland Elam (No. 4) of Tennessee State and Preston Kenrick (No. 8) of Florida. The 'Niners couldn't stop the rush last year, allowing an average of 145.2 yards a game.

Linebackers—Could be a problem spot since All-Pro outside backer Dave Wilcox has retired after knee surgery. The other outside spot is filled by promising Willie Harper, who should mature in his third season.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
46	Abramowicz, Danny	WR	6-0	193	30	Xavier	9
79	Banaszek, Cas	T	6-3	255	29	Northwestern	8
77	Barrett, Jean	T-C	6-6	254	24	Tulsa	3
88	Beasley, Terry	WR	5-10	182	25	Auburn	3
65	Beisler, Randy	G-T	6-5	247	30	Indiana	10
72	Belk, Bill	DE-DT	6-4	248	29	Maryland-E.S.	8
50	Belser, Ceaser	LB	6-0	205	30	Arkansas AM&N	8
80	Bettiga, Mike	WR	6-3	193	25	Cal State-Humboldt	2
75	Blue, Forrest	C	6-6	265	30	Auburn	8
83	Chandler, Al	TE	6-2	229	24	Oklahoma	3
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	255	23	Minnesota	2
30	Gossett, Bruce	K	6-1	229	33	Richmond	12
43	Hall, Windlan	S	5-11	175	25	Arizona State	4
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE	6-4	258	26	North Texas State	6
63	Hardy, Ed	G	6-4	242	23	Jackson State	3
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2	219	25	Nebraska	3
53	Hart, Tommy	DE	6-4	248	30	Morris Brown	8
20	Holmes, Mike	CB-S	6-2	193	25	Texas Southern	2
56	Hoskins, Bob	DT	6-3	251	30	Wichita	6
54	Hull, Tom	LB	6-3	229	23	Penn State	2
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1	215	23	Alabama	2
37	Johnson, Jimmy	CB	6-2	185	37	UCLA	15
48	Johnson, Sammy	RB	6-0	223	22	North Carolina	2
78	Krueger, Rolf	DE-DT	6-4	253	27	Texas A&M	7
49	McGill, Ralph	CB-S	5-11	183	25	Tulsa	4
58	McKoy, Billy	LB	6-3	226	27	Purdue	5
84	Mitchell, Tom	TE	6-3	215	31	Bucknell	9
45	Moore, Manfred	RB	6-0	194	24	Southern California	2
57	Nunley, Frank	LB	6-2	234	29	Michigan	9
14	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	194	22	Wichita	2
66	Penchion, Bob	G	6-6	252	26	Alcorn A&M	4
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	252	32	Grambling	8
32	Phillips, Mel	S	6-2	191	33	North Carolina A&T	10
76	Rohde, Len	T	6-4	248	37	Utah State	16
60	Sandifer, Bill	DT	6-6	278	22	UCLA	2
33	Saunders, John	CB-S	6-2	196	25	Toledo	4
35	Schreiber, Larry	RB	6-0	209	27	Tennessee Tech	5
16	Snead, Norman	QB	6-4	215	36	Wake Forest	15
11	Spurrier, Steve	QB	6-2	198	30	Florida	9
44	Taylor, Bruce	CB	6-0	189	27	Boston	6
52	Vanderbundt, Skip	LB	6-3	223	28	Oregon State	7
18	Washington, Steve	WR	6-2	185	28	Stanford	7
67	Watson, John	G	6-4	245	26	Oklahoma	5
85	West, Robert	WR	6-3	218	24	San Diego State	4
24	Williams, Del	RB	6-0	195	23	Kansas	2
13	Wittum, Tom	P-K	6-1	190	25	Northern Illinois	3

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Webb, Jimmy	10	DT	Mississippi State
2.	Collins, Greg	35	LB	Notre Dame
	Hart, Jeff from Buffalo	71	T	Oregon State
	Mike-Mayer, Steve from Washington	72	K	Maryland
	Baker, Wayne from St. Louis	74	DT	Brigham Young
4.	Elam, Cleveland from New Orleans	85	DE	Tennessee State
	Oliver, Frank	87	DB	Kentucky State
5.	Bullock, Wayne	114	RB	Notre Dame
8.	Kendrick, Preston	191	LB	Florida
9.	Johnson, James	218	DB	Tennessee State
	Natale, Dan from Philadelphia	223	TE	Penn State
	Douglas, Caesar from St. Louis	230	T	Illinois Weslyan
10.	Layton, Donnie	243	RB	South Carolina State
11.	Hernandez, Gene	270	DB	Texas Christian
12.	Worley, Rick	295	QB	Howard Payne
13.	Mitchell, Dale	322	LB	So. California
14.	Henson, David	347	WR	Abilene Christian
15.	Lavin, Rich	374	TE	Western Illinois

COACHES:
DICK NOLAN, Ed Beard, Rich Brooks, Lew Erber, Don Heinrich, Bob Hollway, Doug Scovil, Dick Stanfel.

Nunley still is the man in the middle but could be pressed by Notre Dame rookie Greg Collins (No. 2). Returnees are Skip Vanderbundt, Tom Hull, Billy McKoy and Ceaser Belser.

Secondary—Johnson had his first injury-free season in quite a while in '74 but the 37-year-old cornerback may not return for a 15th season. If he doesn't and strong safety Mel Phillips, one of the league's best, doesn't rebound from two broken arms that limited him to six games last season, the unit could be in trouble. Bruce Taylor, returning for his sixth season, finally played to expectations in '74 at cornerback. Windlan Hall did a competent job of replacing Phillips at strong safety while the free safety position was shared by Ralph McGill and Mike Holmes. Some help may come from Tim Anderson of Ohio State, a No. 1 pick in 1971 who played four years in Canada, and is now an NFL "rookie." 49ers were rated third on pass defense in the NFC in '74 and should be sound again barring injury or retirement.

Special units—FG kicker Bruce Gossett is upset because Nolan had the audacity to draft Steve Mike-Mayer of Maryland (No. 3), a strong-legged soccer styler, to challenge him. Gossett, a 12-year vet and one of the few players to have scored more than 1000 points, says he'll beat out the rookie. Tom Wittum was the Pro Bowl punter and No. 2 in the NFC with a 41.2-yard average. McGill and Taylor are experienced punt runners, supported by rookie Moore of USC who had an 88-yard TD return. Holmes topped the 49ers in kickoff returns with a 24.5-yard average.

PHOTO BY FRANK RIPPON

No. 18—Gene Washington

PHOTO BY FRANK RIPPON

No. 40—Wilbur Jackson

PHOTO BY FRANK RIPPON

No. 64—Dave Wilcox—Retired

1974 Season Results

SAN FRANCISCO (6-8-0)

17	New Orleans	13
16	Atlanta	10
3	*Cincinnati	21
9	*St. Louis	34
13	Detroit	17
14	Los Angeles	37
24	*Oakland	35
13	*Los Angeles	15
14	Dallas	20
34	Chicago	0
27	*Atlanta	0
0	Cleveland	7
7	*Green Bay	6
35	*New Orleans	21

* DENOTES HOME GAME

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

HEAD COACH JOHN NORTH

The Saints finished with 5-9 records the past two seasons and it would appear that the franchise is standing still. But the 5-9 in '74 was better than the 5-9 in '73 because the club was more competitive, not humiliated as often and the defense showed some improvement.

No, the Saints aren't ready to challenge the Rams in the NFC West, but it's not unlikely that they could improve from third to second place.

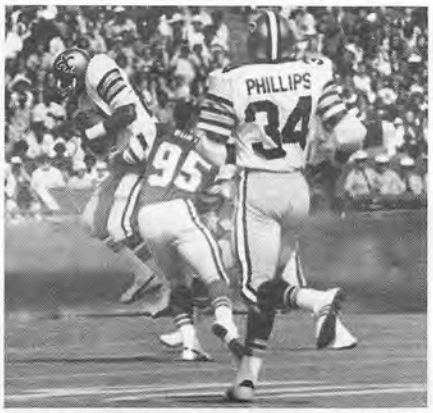
The offense, however, which produced only 166 points, must be more productive. And the draft was slanted this way as the first four selections were offensive players including sprinter-receiver Larry Burton of Purdue and All-American tackle Kurt Schumacher of Ohio State.

Since formed in 1967, the New Orleans franchise has made about every mistake possible: poor drafts, front office meddling and some coaches—not Tom Fears—with questionable credentials. But John North, the former Detroit assistant now in his third season, seems to finally have the Saints on the right course.

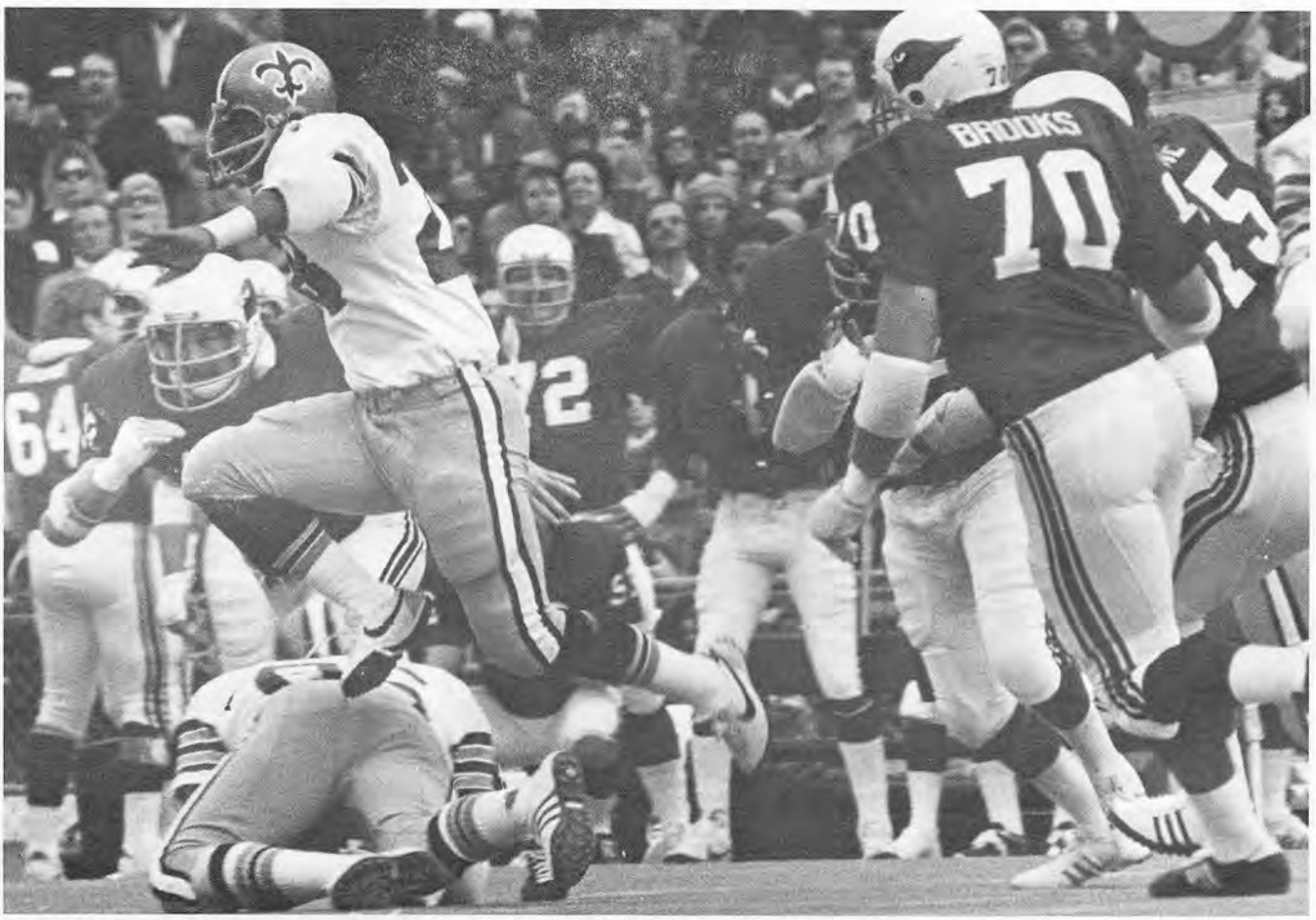
Yet New Orleans won't progress unless quarterback Archie Manning, a super athlete, makes his peace with management and stays healthy. Manning was tendered a future offer by the World Football League and owner John Mecom said tactlessly that he felt this affected his performance last year. And he added for the record that the Saints seriously considered trading him. There would have been plenty of takers because Manning is a big talent frustrated in four seasons by so-so receivers and blockers.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—North had three different starting quarterbacks in '74: Manning, Bobby Scott and Larry Cipa. Manning hurt his knee in the fourth game against Chicago (he had off-season surgery) and missed the final two games with mononucleosis.



No. 84—Paul Seal No. 34—Jess Phillips



No. 28—Alvin Maxson

The big (6-3, 215) redhead wound up as the club's No. 3 rusher but he had only mediocre passing statistics as North stressed the running game. Scott and Cipa, both inexperienced, had their moments. But the Saints were the NFC's 11th ranked passing team and totaled only 10 touchdown passes—two coming in the final game.

Running backs—Although the Saints still need some outside running speed, they found a solid fullback last year in rookie Alvin Maxson, who gained 714 yards (4.3 average) after becoming a starter in the fourth game. He was also the team's leading receiver with 42 catches. Reliable Jess Phillips supported Maxson while North is hopeful that Rod McNeill, the former USC star, or Andrew Jones, the No. 3 choice from Washington State, could upgrade the running game. McNeill was hampered by a pulled muscle and started slowly as a rookie in '74 but showed pro potential later. In addition to Jones, there are five other rookie runners struggling for recognition in addition to holdover reserves Howard Stevens, the skitterish little punt-kick-off runner; Bill Butler, Jack DeGrenier and Odell Lawson.

Receivers—Burton is expected to supply the Saints with much needed speed at wide receiver. He can fly, finishing fourth in the 200 meters at the Munich Olympics and recording a wind-aided 9.1 100. Last year's regulars on the outside were Bob Newland and Joel Parker, a rookie. Newland played on a gimpy knee that required surgery but he still started every game and averaged 18.1 yards on 27 catches.

Parker impressed with 41 receptions for 455 yards and a team-high four touchdowns. Reserves include ex-Colt Sam Havrilak, Dave Davis, Bob Wicks and Frosty Anderson, sidelined by shoulder surgery in '74 as a rookie. Like Parker, the young tight end Paul Seal showed improvement last season in his first year. He caught 32 passes for 466 yards and three touchdowns. There's plenty of depth at tight end with veterans John Beasley, Len Garrett and Henry Childs, a late '74 acquisition, backing up Seal.

Offensive line—This unit is still in a state of transition as North utilized first and second round picks to get Schumacher and Lee Gross of Auburn. They are prospective starters at guard, tackle or center. Holdovers are veteran Jake Kupp, now 33, and free agent Emanuel Zanders at guards; Dave Thompson, obtained in trade from Detroit, and Don Morrison, who had an injury-marred season, at tackles, and Saint MVP John Didion at center. In addition, reserves Phil La Porta, John Mooring and Rocky Rasley, a special teams bully, saw action last season. Saint quarterbacks were sacked 37 times in '74, a statistic that North wants to alter.

DEFENSE

"Our defense kept us in most all our games," said North. "It never completely fell apart despite some discouraging situations. It isn't a unit that's loaded with All-Pro characters but it managed to play team defense very well. As with most of our positions, our defense is dominated by young people."

Front four—On draft day, North traded defensive end Billy Newsome

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
20	Alderson, Tim	S	6-2	198	24	Minnesota	1
89	Anderson, Frosty	WR	5-11	175	24	Nebraska	1
85	Barnes, Al	WR	6-1	180	26	New Mexico St.	4
63	Baumgartner, Steve	DE	6-7	260	23	Purdue	3
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0	190	26	Oregon	5
21	Boyd, Greg	S	6-2	201	23	Arizona	3
38	Butler, Bill	RB	6-0	210	24	Kansas State	4
46	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	223	23	Kansas State	2
13	Cipa, Larry	QB	6-3	209	22	Michigan	2
55	Coleman, Don	LB	6-2	222	22	Michigan	2
59	Colman, Wayne	LB	6-1	220	28	Temple	8
86	Davis, Dave	WR	6-0	175	26	Tennessee State	5
47	DeGrenier, Jack	RB	6-1	225	23	Texas-Arlington	2
51	Didion, John	C	6-4	255	26	Oregon State	7
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	230	23	New Mexico State	3
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-1	235	24	Kentucky	4
24	Fuller, Johnny	S	6-0	185	28	Lamar	8
83	Garrett, Len	TE	6-3	230	27	New Mexico Highlands	5
50	Hunt, Charles	LB	6-3	220	24	Florida St.	2
30	Jackson, Ernie	CB	5-10	175	24	Duke	4
53	Kingrea, Rick	LB	6-1	230	25	Tulane	5
50	Kupp, Jake	G	6-3	248	33	Washington	12
67	LaPorta, Phil	T	6-4	256	22	Penn State	2
39	Lawson, Odell	RB	6-2	205	25	Langston	5
11	Lee, Bivian	CB	6-3	200	26	Prairie View	5
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	215	25	Mississippi	5
48	Martin, Curtis	TE	6-3	220	26	Louisiana State	1
28	Maxson, Alvin	RB	5-11	205	22	Southern Methodist	2
19	McClard, Bill	K	5-10	202	24	Arkansas	4
27	McNeill, Rod	RB	6-2	219	23	Southern California	2
57	Merlo, Jim	LB	6-1	225	22	Stanford	3
54	Middleton, Richard	LB	6-2	228	22	Ohio State	2
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	260	22	Oklahoma	3
25	Moore, Jerry	S	6-3	208	26	Arkansas	5
76	Morrison, Don	T	6-5	260	24	Texas-Arlington	5
37	Myers, Tom	S	5-11	184	23	Syracuse	4
41	Newland, Bob	WR	6-2	190	25	Oregon	5
72	Owens, Joe	DE	6-2	250	27	Alcorn State	6
88	Parker, Joel	WR	6-5	212	22	Florida	2
34	Phillips, Jess	RB	6-1	210	27	Michigan State	8
82	Pollard, Bob	DE-DT	6-3	250	25	Weber State	5
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3	260	24	Alcorn State	3
66	Rasley, Rocky	G	6-3	255	27	Oregon State	6
40	Schmidt, Terry	CB	6-0	180	23	Ball State	2
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	200	25	Tennessee	4
84	Seal, Paul	TE	6-4	222	22	Michigan	2
70	Sloan, Bonnie	DE	6-5	260	27	Austin Peay	2
29	Spencer, Maurice	S	6-0	175	22	North Carolina Central	2
22	Stevens, Howard	RB	5-5	165	24	Louisville	3
65	Thompson, Dave	C-T	6-4	260	24	Clemson	5
49	Wicks, Bob	WR	6-3	205	24	Utah State	3
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	263	22	Jackson State	2

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Burton, Larry	7	WR	Purdue
	Schumacher, Kurt from New York Jets	12	T	Ohio State
2.	Gross, Lee	32	C	Auburn
3.	Jones, Andrew	60	RB	Washington State
	Grooms, Elois from Detroit thru Minnesota	63	DE	Tennessee Tech
	Starkebaum, John from Philadelphia	92	DB	Nebraska
	Hall, Charlie from St. Louis	99	DE	Tulane
	Lemon, Mike from Buffalo	149	LB	Kansas
7.	Rogers, Steve	163	RB	Louisiana State
9.	Strachan, Mike	216	RB	Iowa State
10.	Heater, Chuck	241	RB	Michigan
11.	Lee, Fanny	266	P	Northeast Louisiana
12.	Gustafson, Ron	294	WR	North Dakota
13.	Upchurch, Jim	319	RB	Arizona
14.	Rhino, Randy	343	DB	Georgia Tech
15.	Burget, Grant	372	RB	Oklahoma
16.	Mc Donald, Mike	397	LB	Catawba
17.	Westbrooks, Greg	422	LB	Colorado

COACHES:
JOHN NORTH, Billy Ray Barnes, Bob Cummings, Wimp Hewgley, Bob Ledbetter, Lamar McHan, Jim Phillips, Doug Shively, Bud Whitehead.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

to the New York Jets for a first-round pick that was used to get Schumacher. The Jet offer didn't materialize until the Saints had already used their own selection to pick Burton. North says that if had known earlier about the Jets' deal, he would have taken Grambling's great defensive lineman Gary Johnson and gambled that Burton would still be around on the Jet choice.

So a serviceable front four, still needing a more consistent pass rush, has been weakened. Last year North juggled his rush line. He opened with Elex Price and Derland Moorek, second year men, at tackles, and Bob Pollard and Newsome at ends. Fast Joe Owens was inserted at end in passing situations.

It's possible he could move Pollard to end this season. If not, veteran Andy Dorris and draftees Elois Grooms of Tennessee State (No. 3) and Charlie Hall of Tulane (No. 4) will be contending for Newsome's job.

Linebackers—The Saints of '74 had a stable linebacking corps for the first time in the club's history. Wayne Colman and Jim Merlo on the outside and Joe Federspiel in the middle started every game. The unit lacked speed and overall size but compensated for these deficiencies with aggressiveness. Reserves include Rick Kingrea, Rick Middleton and Don Coleman plus some low draft choice rookies.

Secondary—An improved group led by free safety Tommy Myers, who rebounded from stomach and knee surgery to call defensive signals and harass opponents with blitzes. Veteran Johnny Fuller, a mainstay at strong safety, will be challenged by returnees Jerry Moore and Greg Boyd and rookie John Starkebaum (No. 4) of Nebraska. Ernie Jackson, a hitter, is a fixture at one corner with Terry Schmidt, a starter for nine games as a '74 rookie until injured, contending with veteran Bivian Lee at the right corner. More size needed but, overall, this is a sound unit.

Special teams—Bill McClard, nine of 16 including 51- and 52-yard field goals, has job security. But punter Tom Blanchard, despite winning the conference title (42.1 average), might be pushed by rookie Danny Lee (No. 11) of Northeast Lousiana. Same thing in the return department where All-American Randy Rhino of Georgia Tech could challenge 5-5 Howard Stevens. Coverage could improve as two opposition punts last season were returned for touchdowns.

New Orleans Superdome—interior

New Orleans Superdome—exterior

No. 50—Jake Kupp

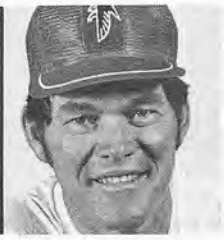
1974 Season Results

NEW ORLEANS (5-9-0)

13	*San Francisco	17
0	Los Angeles	24
14	*Atlanta	13
10	Chicago	24
17	Denver	33
13	Atlanta	3
14	*Philadelphia	10
14	Detroit	19
0	*Miami	21
20	*Los Angeles	7
7	*Pittsburgh	28
9	Minnesota	29
14	*St. Louis	0
21	San Francisco	35

*DENOTES HOME GAME

ATLANTA FALCONS



HEAD COACH MARION CAMPBELL

The Atlanta Falcons joined the National Football League in 1966 and now as they contemplate their 10th anniversary, they're practically starting out all over again.

The Norm Van Brocklin years, some moderately successful, are behind them and Marion Campbell, the interim coach last season when The Dutchman was fired after eight games, is trying to pick up the pieces of a shattered team.

Atlanta won two of eight for Van Brocklin, who seemingly lost all communication with his team. Campbell won only one of six but the veterans contend it wasn't his fault, blaming themselves. They had already blamed Van Brocklin for their sorry showing so they couldn't made a coach a scapegoat twice in the same season.

Campbell's No. 1 priority is to resurrect the offense which was 13th and last in the NFC. His first step in that direction came on draft day when he traded tackle George Kunz and positions with Baltimore on the first round for All-American quarterback Steve Bartkowski of California.

Then he got rid of Van Brocklin's assistants on offense—Harry Gilmer, Billy Ray Barnes and Duane Putnam—and replaced them with John Rauch, former Oakland-Buffalo coach who'll direct the offense; ex-Cleveland star Bill Nelsen, a quarterback coach, and Bill Walsh, who'll handle the offensive line as he did so capably during his stay at Kansas City.

Campbell, the defensive coordinator under Van Brocklin, gave that job to Fred Bruney, one of three assistants he retained. The other acquisition was the hiring of former Philadelphia coach Ed Khayat to work with the defensive line and special teams.

Some second-guessed the trade for Bartkowski, an excellent passer but obviously unproven. Campbell pointed out that the Atlanta offense has faltered the past two years and in four games last season didn't score a single touchdown.

The defense, considering the time it labored on the field, wasn't all that bad and the pass defense was No. 1 ranked in the conference—perhaps because opponents found it easier to run against a defense that yielded an average of 183.1 yards rushing per game.

In any event, Campbell has a monumental task. Atlanta fans are bitter and the franchise did lead the league in one department last season—no shows.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Bartkowski, 6-4, 215, big, blonde and talented. He bypassed a good baseball future to concentrate on football and broke Craig Morton's passing records at California last season by completing 182 of 325 for 2580 yards. He is of the Jim Plunkett mold and grew up in the same Northern California area. But he's still a rookie and there's that painful learning experience. He doesn't have much experienced help in former Heisman winner Pat Sullivan and ex-taxi squadder Kim McQuilken, who finished the season as the No. 1 quarterback. Bob Lee, the former Falcon leader, was waived in the off-season. So it's up to Bartkowski and the other youngsters.

Running backs—Disgruntled Art

No. 87—Claude Humphrey

PHOTO BY STEVE HERZOG

No. 60—Tommy Nobis

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

Dec. 15, 1974—48,830 no-shows

ATLANTA FALCONS

Malone was traded to Philadelphia for offensive tackle Steve Smith, who is counted upon to take up the slack for the departed Kunz. Malone and Dave Hampton were once an effective rushing tandem. However Hampton gained only 464 yards in '74, only 17th best in the NFC but No. 1 with Atlanta.

Malone accounted for 410 yards while Eddie Ray and Vince Kendrick were the most active reserves. Molly McGee seldom played. Campbell needs more quality runners and he hopes to get help right away from rookie Woody Thompson of Miami, called a slashing type runner at 6-1 and 219.

Receivers—With the worst passing offense in the NFC, 44.9 percent completions, an average of only 93.4 yards a game, it would figure that the receivers wouldn't have any impressive numbers. Still, Ken Burrow caught 34 passes for 545 yards while his outside partner, Al Dodd, grabbed only 12. Tight end Jim Mitchell, once an All-Pro prospect, caught 30 for 479 yards while Malone took 28 receptions with him to Philadelphia. The Falcons drafted two receivers in the first 10 rounds, tight end Greg McCrary of Atlanta's Clark College (No. 5) and Marshall Mills of West Virginia (No. 10). Others who may figure are Wallace Francis, obtained from Buffalo, and Al Jenkins, with the WFL last year.

Offensive line—Center Jeff Van Note had the distinction of being one of two Falcons to be invited to the Pro Bowl (defensive end Claude Humphrey was the other). He is the best of an average group now that Kunz, one of the NFL's best blockers, is in Baltimore. Steve Smith is expected to be a starting tackle while Larron Jackson (6-3, 270), acquired from Denver in exchange for defensive tackle Greg Marx and a draft choice, is a starting possibility at either tackle or guard. The incumbents, besides Van Note, are guards Dennis Havig, Len Gotshalk, Jim Miller, Royce Smith, Ted Fritsch, Paul Ryczek, Bill Sandeman and Nick Bebout. And the regulars might have to make room for rookie guard John Nessel (6-6, 257) of Penn State (No. 4).

DEFENSE

Front four—Humphrey, who likes to taunt and intimidate his opponents, and John Zook are one of the NFL's best passing rushing end tandems. So it's a nice base to start from. The tackles, Mike Lewis and Mike Tilleman, aren't as renowned but they're capable. Other rushmen are veteran Chuck Walker, 34, Rosie Manning and Larry Bailey. Humphrey had a big year with a loser with 16 sacks, 68 tackles, four blocked field goals and eight passes batted away.

Linebackers—An experienced trio in Tommy Nobis, flanked by Greg Brezina and Don Hansen. But Nobis, the only original Falcon remaining, may be showing signs of age. Anyway, a rookie, Ralph Ortega of Florida (No. 2), could challenge the vets. And, rookie Fulton Kuykendall of UCLA (No. 6) also has an outside chance.

Secondary—The Falcons paced the

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
68	Bailey, Larry	DT	6-4	238	23	Pacific	2
63	Bebout, Nick	T	6-5	260	24	Wyoming	3
50	Brezina, Greg	LB	6-1	221	29	Houston	8
34	Brown, Ray	S	6-2	202	26	West Texas State	5
82	Burrow, Ken	WR	6-0	191	27	San Diego State	5
38	Byas, Rick	CB	5-9	180	24	Wayne State	2
	Davis, Clifton	RB	6-2	210	24	Alcorn A&M	1
41	Dodd, Al	WR	6-0	178	30	Northwest Louisiana	8
32	Easterling, Ray	S	6-0	192	26	Richmond	4
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	195	23	Alabama AM&N	3
66	Fritsch, Ted	C	6-2	242	25	St. Norbert	4
	Garror, Leon	CB	6-0	178	27	Alcorn A&M	3
84	Geredine, Thomas	WR	6-2	189	25	Northeast Missouri	3
65	Gotshalk, Len	G	6-4	259	26	Humboldt State	5
	Greer, Charles	S	6-0	205	29	Colorado	8
43	Hampton, Dave	RB	6-0	202	28	Wyoming	7
58	Hansen, Don	LB	6-2	228	31	Illinois	9
56	Havig, Dennis	G	6-2	256	26	Colorado	5
27	Hayes, Tom	CB	6-1	198	29	San Diego State	5
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	265	31	Tennessee State	8
68	Jackson, Larron	G	6-3	260	26	Missouri	5
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	25	Florida	4
20	Kendrick, Vince	RB	6-0	223	23	Florida	2
22	Lawrence, Rolland	CB	5-10	179	24	Tabor	3
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4	261	26	Arkansas AM&N	5
77	Manning, Rosie	DT	6-5	255	25	Northeast Oklahoma	4
31	McGee, Molly	RB	5-10	184	22	Rhode Island	2
11	McQuilken, Kim	QB	6-2	203	24	Lehigh	2
83	Mialik, Larry	TE	6-1	226	25	Wisconsin	4
12	Mike-Mayer, Nick	K	5-9	187	25	Temple	3
55	Miller, Jim	G	6-3	240	26	Iowa	5
86	Mitchell, Jim	TE	6-1	236	28	Prairie View	7
52	Mitchell, Ken	LB	6-1	224	27	Nevada-Las Vegas	3
80	Neal, Louis	WR	6-4	215	24	Prairie View	3
60	Nobis, Tommy	LB	6-2	243	32	Texas	10
51	Palmer, Dick	LB	6-2	232	28	Kentucky	6
44	Ray, Eddie	RB	6-2	240	28	Louisiana State	6
53	Ryczek, Paul	C	6-2	230	23	Virginia	2
61	Sandeman, Bill	T	6-5	260	32	Pacific	10
	Simmons, Jerry	WR	6-1	190	32	Bethune-Cookman	11
64	Smith, Royce	G	6-3	250	26	Georgia	4
73	Smith, Steve	T	6-5	250	33	Michigan	9
24	Stanback, Haskel	RB	6-0	210	24	Tennessee	2
7	Sullivan, Pat	QB	5-11	201	25	Auburn	4
74	Tilleman, Mike	DT	6-7	278	31	Montana	9
81	Tinker, Gerald	WR	5-9	170	24	Kent State	2
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	29	Kentucky	7
79	Walker, Chuck	DT	6-3	261	34	Duke	12
71	Zook, John	DE	6-5	249	28	Kansas	7

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Bartkowski, Steve	1	QB	California
	from Baltimore			
	Choice to Baltimore			
2.	Ortega, Ralph	29	LB	Florida
	Thompson, Woody	65	RB	Miami
	from Houston			
4.	Nessel, John	81	G	Penn State
	McCrary, Greg	123	TE	Clark
	from Buffalo			
6.	Kuykendall, Fulton	132	LB	UCLA
	from Baltimore			
	Payton, Doug	133	G	Colorado
7.	Esposito, Mike	159	RB	Boston College
8.	Adams, Brent	185	T	Tennessee-Chattanooga
9.	Davis, Brad	211	RB	Louisiana State
10.	Mills, Marshall	237	WR	West Virginia
11.	Merrow, Jeff	263	DT	West Virginia
12.	Pickett, Alonzo	289	T-G	Texas Southern
13.	Russ, Carl	315	LB	Michigan
14.	Robinson, Steve	340	DT	Tuskegee
15.	Robinson, Jim	367	WR	Georgia Tech
16.	Knutson, Steve	393	T	So. California
17.	Anderson, Mitch	418	QB	Northwestern

COACHES:
MARION CAMPBELL, Fred Bruney, Ed Khayat, Al Lavan, Marv Matuszak, Bill Nelsen, Jimmy Orr, Johnny Rauch, Bill Walsh.

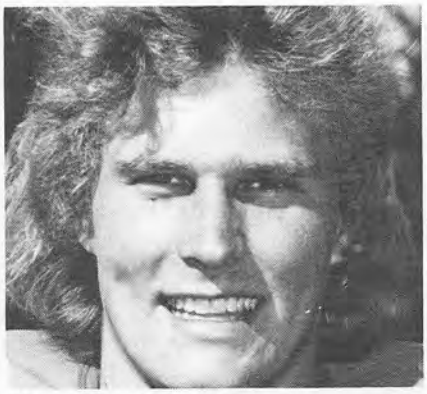
No. 43—Dave Hampton

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 31—Molly McGee

NFC by allowing an average of only 112.3 passing yards a game. But the deep defenders had only a moderate 17 interceptions. Still, if it hadn't been for some late thefts by strong safety Ray Brown, Atlanta probably wouldn't have won two of the three games it did. Brown had a club record eight interceptions including a touchdown. Last year's free safety, Clarence Ellis, a No. 1 choice out of Notre Dame four years ago, was traded to Denver for wide receiver Jerry Simmons (a former Falcon) and safety Charlie Greer. Brown will be moved from strong to weak safety with Greer and Ray Easterling, a tough special teams man, contending for the strong safety job. The corners are Tom Hayes and young Rolland Lawrence, who should benefit from a year's experience. No rookie help here but, then again, not much is needed.

Special teams—Punter John James was busy in '74. He punted 96 times, including 11 in a game against New Orleans, and averaged 40.5 yards to rank No. 3 in the NFC. Placekicker Nick Mike-Mayer didn't get many FG opportunities with the punchless Falcons. He hit on nine of 16 field goals. Gerald Tinker averaged 13.8 yards on punt returns and 24.3 yards on kickoff runbacks.



No. 1 DC—Steve Bartkowski

1974 Season Results

ATLANTA (3-11-0)

0	*Dallas	24
10	*San Francisco	16
13	New Orleans	14
14	N.Y. Giants	7
13	*Chicago	10
3	*New Orleans	13
17	Pittsburgh	24
7	Miami	42
0	Los Angeles	21
7	*Baltimore	17
0	San Francisco	27
7	*Los Angeles	30
10	Minnesota	23
10	*Green Bay	3

* DENOTES HOME GAME

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

HEAD COACH DON CORYELL

Coach Don Coryell enters the 1975 season with different priorities from those he had at the outset of last season. Instead of aiming for respectability—he would have settled for a 7-7 record—he'll be trying to retain the Eastern Division title and advancing into and through the playoffs.

The Cards were the NFC's surprise team of '74, winning their first seven games on the way to a 10-4 record after three straight 4-9-1 seasons. They did it with a big-play offense and an improved defense and, although the Cardinals have one of the NFL's most demanding schedules, there's no reason to believe they won't be a title contender again.

For one thing, Coryell, in only his second year as a pro coach, proved as he did at San Diego State that he has offensive genius. In a league in which defense dominates, St. Louis scored 13 of its 36 touchdowns from at least 40 yards out, averaging 28 yards per scoring play.

Quarterback Jim Hart, the NFC player of the year, once considered a journeyman, implemented this long-striking offense. He topped the conference with 20 touchdown passes and was intercepted only eight times.

Then, there was exciting Terry Metcalf, who was the NFC leader in combined net yards (2058), and sprinter Mel Gray, the bomb-threat and a capable offensive line.

The defense improved considerably, allowing nearly 1000 fewer yards and 147 fewer points than in '73. And, it could stand some more improvement, too, as the Cards were only 10th ranked overall in the NFC and 11th against passing.

The Big Red, like the New England Patriots, caught some teams by surprise last year but Washington's George Allen (beaten twice by Coryell) and other coaches will be plotting overtime this season against St. Louis' big-play attack.

The Cards, with their best season in 15 years in St. Louis, moved into some elite company in 1974 and must now prove they belong. A season-ending 30-14 playoff loss to Minnesota, a game in which the jittery Cardinals were afflicted by turnovers, will provide them with added incentive.

Coryell is still thinking big play with an off-season trade that brought wide receiver Marlin Briscoe and reserve running back Hubert Ginn from Miami in exchange for punter-runner Donny Anderson and back-up tight end James McFarland.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Coryell's faith in Hart, a 10-year veteran, paid dividends last

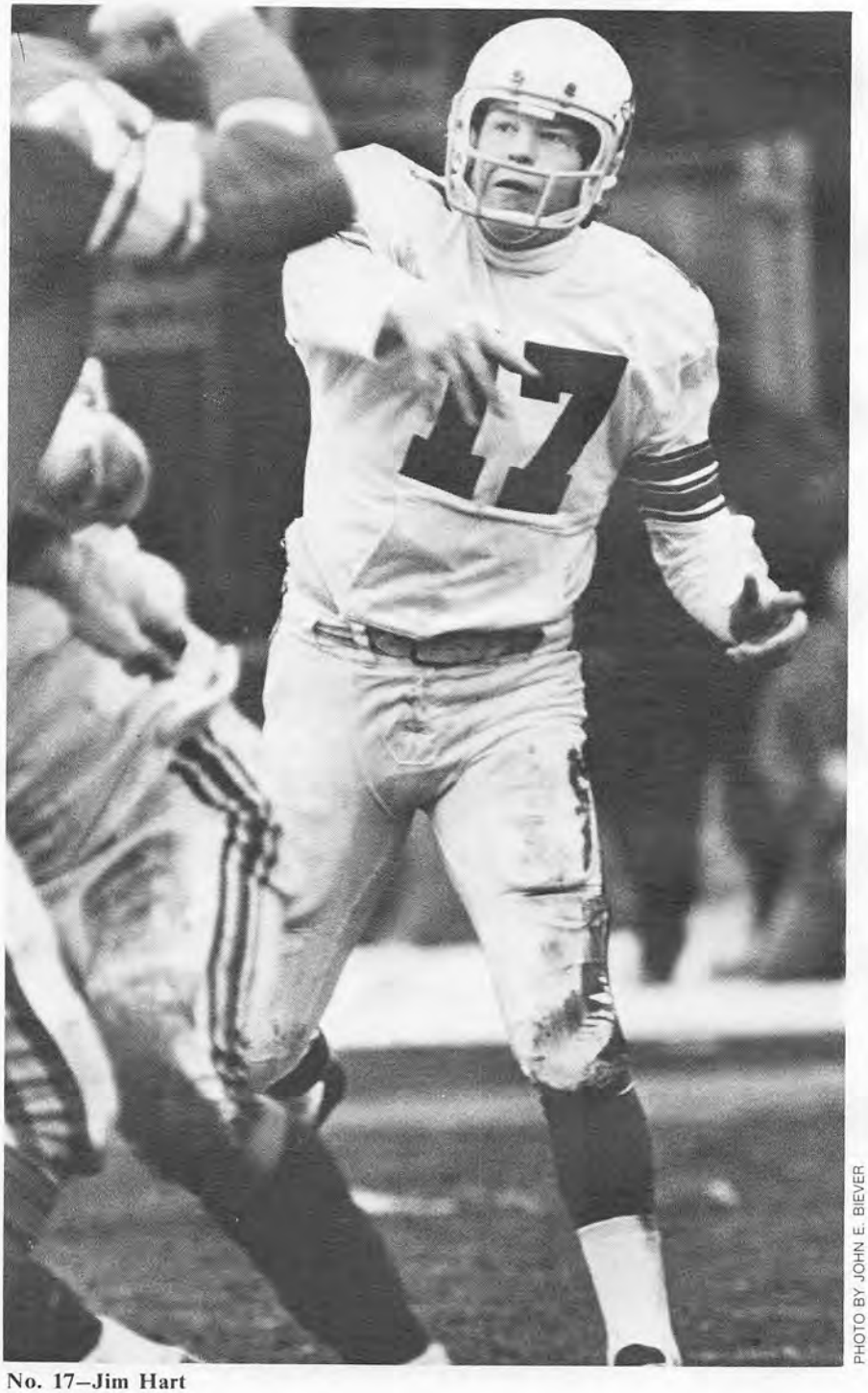


PHOTO BY JOHN E. BIEVER

No. 17—Jim Hart

season. Hart, who in other years with other coaches had to share his job, completed 51.5 percent of his passes for 2411 yards and earned his first invitation to the Pro Bowl. He is backed up by Dennis Shaw, acquired from Buffalo, and young Gary Keithley of Texas El Paso.

Running backs—Metcalf, only 5-10 and 185 pounds, is one of the NFL's most effective runners. He did everything for the Cards—rushing (718 yards), receiving (50 catches), touchdowns (8), punt (13.1 average) and kickoff returns (31.2). Maybe he did too much because he had some problems holding onto the ball. Coryell drafted three runners, including Jim Germany of New Mexico State (No. 2), and perhaps Terry will be relieved of some of his special team duties. Jim Otis, not given much of a chance with New Orleans and Kansas City, filled in splendidly for Ken Willard when the veteran fullback was forced to miss seven games because of knee surgery. Otis gained 664 yards, for a 4.2 average.

Receivers—Thomas had 24 catches, Gray 39 and Cain 13. And now Briscoe, who wanted to be traded away from conservative Miami and to a team that believes in throwing the ball. Hampered by injuries last season, the seven-year veteran is a deep threat and led the Dolphins in pass catching in 1973. The much-honored tight end, Jackie Smith, is expected to return for his 13th year. Smith is the NFL's all-time leader at his position with 459 catches for 7601 yards. Gary Hammond is a competent reserve receiver and he'll be part of the depth.

Offensive line—If tackle Ernie McMillan returns for a record 15th year, the Cardinals will once again have a sound offensive line. The other starting tackle, Dan Dierdorf (6-3, 275), made the Pro Bowl in his fourth year. The guards, Bob Young and Conrad Dobler, are reliable and aggressive as is super sub Roger Finnie, a swingman and former starter. There's a crowd at center. Tom Brahaney did a fine job of filling in for Tom Banks, who had knee surgery after the opening game. So they'll compete in '75 along with ex-Ram Ken Iman, a St. Louis native who wants to end his distinguished 14-year career at home. Others who figure are Greg Kindle and Cal Withrow, another center, and possibly rookie Harvey Goodman of Colorado. The blockers protected Hart so well that he was sacked only 16 times although he threw more passes (388) than any other NFL quarterback.

DEFENSE

Front four—One of the team's most improved units—producing 35 quarterback sacks, six more than in '73. Tackle Bob Rowe, an eight-year veteran, is the most experienced rushman. He operates from inside along with converted end Leo Brooks, who replaced huge Dave Butz (6-7, 280), injured in the opener. Butz had knee surgery and is expected to challenge for the position again. Ron Yankowski and Council Rudolph are returning starters at ends and there are capable replacements in Bob Bell, signed as a free agent at mid-season last year, Bob Crum, Steve George and Ron Davis. The Cards also drafted four linemen—end Ron Franklin and tackles Larry Jameson, John Adams and Steve Lindgren.

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
18	Albert, Sergio	K	6-3	195	23	US. International	2
61	Allison, Henry	G	6-3	255	28	San Diego State	3
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2	220	25	Arizona	4
25	Bakken, Jim	K	6-0	200	34	Wisconsin	14
54	Banks, Tom	C	6-1	240	27	Auburn	4
79	Bell, Bob	DT	6-4	250	27	Cincinnati	5
51	Brahaney, Tom	C	6-2	250	23	Oklahoma	3
86	Briscoe, Marlin	WR	5-11	175	29	Omaha	8
70	Brooks, Leo	DE	6-6	240	27	Texas	6
88	Cain, J. V.	WR	6-4	225	24	Colorado	2
	Cantrell, Charles	G	6-4	240	24	Lamar	1
65	Crum, Bob	DE	6-5	240	24	Arizona	2
26	Crump, Dwayne	CB	5-11	180	25	Fresno State	3
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3	280	26	Michigan	5
66	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-3	255	24	Wyoming	4
	Donckers, Bill	QB	6-1	205	24	San Diego State	1
41	Duren, Clarence	S	6-1	190	24	California	3
60	Finnie, Roger	G-T	6-3	250	29	Florida A&M	7
63	George, Steve	DT	6-5	265	24	Houston	2
48	Ginn, Hubert	RB	5-10	185	28	Florida A&M	6
85	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	170	26	Missouri	5
30	Hammond, Gary	WR	5-11	185	26	Southern Methodist	4
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	31	Southern Illinois	10
50	Hartle, Greg	LB	6-2	225	24	Newberry	2
76	Holman, Willie	DE	6-4	255	30	So. Carolina St.	6
55	Iman, Ken	C	6-1	240	36	S.E. Missouri State	15
34	Jones, Steve	RB	6-0	200	24	Duke	3
12	Keithley, Gary	QB	6-3	215	24	Texas-El Paso	2
69	Kindle, Greg	T	6-4	265	24	Tennessee State	2
52	LeVeck, Jack	LB	6-0	220	25	Ohio	3
73	McMillan, Ernie	T	6-5	265	37	Illinois	15
21	Metcalf, Terry	RB	5-10	185	23	Long Beach State	3
58	Miller, Terry	LB	6-2	220	29	Illinois	6
27	Moss, Eddie	RB	6-0	215	27	S.E. Missouri State	3
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2	215	24	Minnesota	2
35	Otis, Jim	RB	6-0	225	27	Ohio State	6
36	Reaves, Ken	S	6-3	210	30	Norfolk State	10
14	Roberts, Hal	P	6-1	180	23	Houston	2
75	Rowe, Bob	DT	6-4	245	30	Western Michigan	9
74	Rudolph, Council	DE	6-4	245	25	Kentucky State	4
38	Scales, Hurles	CB	6-1	200	24	North Texas State	2
11	Shaw, Dennis	QB	6-2	210	28	San Diego State	5
81	Smith, Jackie	TE	6-4	230	35	Northwest Louisiana	13
67	Stallings, Larry	LB	6-1	230	33	Georgia Tech	13
28	Stringer, Scott	CB	5-11	180	24	California	2
82	Thomas, Earl	WR	6-2	215	26	Houston	5
45	Tolbert, Jim	S	6-4	210	31	Lincoln, Mo.	9
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0	190	27	Missouri	7
20	Willard, Ken	RB	6-2	215	32	North Carolina	11
56	Withrow, Cal	C	6-0	240	30	Kentucky	6
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE	6-5	235	28	Kansas State	5
64	Young, Bob	G	6-1	270	32	Howard Payne	10

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	Gray, Tim	21	DB	Texas A&M
2.	Germany, James	46	RB	New Mexico State
5.	Goodman, Harvey	124	T	Colorado
6.	Jameson, Larry	152	DT	Indiana
7.	Beaird, Steve	177	RB	Baylor
8.	Adams, John from New Orleans	188	DT	West Virginia
	Lauriano, Louis	202	DB	Cal State-Long Beach
10.	McGraw, Mike	255	LB	Wyoming
11.	Latin, Jerry	280	RB	Northern Illinois
12.	Jones, Ben	308	WR	Louisiana State
13.	Lindgren, Steve	333	DE	Hamline
14.	Bahe, Ritchie	358	WR	Nebraska
15.	Franklin, Ron	386	DT	Boise State
16.	Miller, Mark	411	WR	Missouri
17.	Monroe, Ken	436	RB	Indiana State

COACHES:

DON CORYELL, Jim Champion, Joe Gibbs, Harry Gilmer, Sid Hall, Jim Hanifan, Wayne Sevier, Ray Willsey.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Linebacker—If Larry Stallings comes back for a 13th season and plays to his usual high level of consistency, linebacking will be solid again. Mark Arneson, with only three years' experience, is improving as a middle man and ex-Charger Pete Barnes was steady at the other outside position. Good reserves in Jack LeVeck, Terry Miller, Steve Neils and Greg Hartle, a 10th round choice in '74, who impressed the coaches in training camp. Only rookie is Mike McGraw (No. 10) of Wyoming.

Secondary—Cardinals have capable cornerbacks in All-Pro Roger Wehrli and Norm Thompson, whose six interceptions led the club. But safety spots could be upgraded. Ken Reaves, acquired in mid-season from New Orleans, became the starting strong safety, teaming with young Clarence Duren at free safety. Jim Tolbert backs up at either corner or strong safety—starting at both positions for a while. Other reserves are Dwayne Crump, Scott Stringer, Hurles Scales and Tim Gray of Texas A & M, the No. 1 draft choice. The Card secondary didn't give up many touchdowns—eight, an NFC low—but the opposition completed 55.7 percent of its passes for an average of 168.8 yards a game.

Special teams—Jim Bakken led the Cardinals in scoring for the 12th straight year with 69 points and made 13 of 22 field goals. Hal Roberts, a rookie, relieved the left-footed Anderson of his punting responsibility and averaged 38.7 yards. The Cards didn't draft a kicker so Bakken and Roberts are the kicking tandem. The return department is in the best of hands—Metcalf. He's the NFC kickoff return leader, while Hammond and Wehrli are also available as kick runners.

No. 73—Ernie McMillan

No. 81—Jackie Smith

No. 22—Roger Wehrli

PHOTO BY JOHN E. BIEVER

No. 21—Terry Metcalf

1974 Season Results

ST. LOUIS (10-4-0)

7	*Philadelphia	3
17	Washington	10
29	*Cleveland	7
34	San Francisco	9
31	*Dallas	28
31	Houston	27
23	*Washington	20
14	Dallas	17
24	*Minnesota	28
13	Philadelphia	3
23	N.Y. Giants	21
13	*Kansas City	17
0	New Orleans	14
26	*N.Y. Giants	14

* DENOTES HOME GAME

DALLAS COWBOYS

HEAD COACH TOM LANDRY

For many years the Cowboys were considered the best non-championship team in pro football. But when they won the Super Bowl in 1971, they silenced their critics who always said Dallas "couldn't win the big one."

Last year the Cowboys picked up another label: the best non-playoff team in pro football.

For the first time in nine years the Cowboys failed to make the post-season tournament. Their 8-6 record wasn't quite good enough in the competitive NFC East where St. Louis and Washington tied for first with 10-4 marks.

The competition is severe again but the Cowboys, one of the NFL's best managed and talented franchises, should be very much in contention.

The defense is first rate, bolstered by blue chip draft choices the past few years including this year's No. 1 pick, Randy White of Maryland, judged the best collegiate lineman in the country.

Most of the offensive parts are intact excepting the halfback position. Calvin Hill, one of the NFL's best runners, is obligated to play for Hawaii of the WFL. Even if he abrogates his contract with the Wiffles, it's doubtful he'll return to Dallas.

Quarterback Roger Staubach had an off-season in 1974 but there's no reason to believe that this dedicated athlete won't rebound with a super-type 1975 season. He is among the top four or five quarterbacks in the game.

Unlike other teams that must endure agonizing, losing seasons while rebuilding, the Cowboys win while in the process of changing the guard. The Cowboys have some oldsters like Bob Lilly and Lee Roy Jordan but they're basically a young team and one which is bound to improve. We'd like to say the Cowboys will be back but, in truth, they've never strayed too far from the championship scene.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Staubach had some early season interception problems—15 for the season—but otherwise his statistics were creditable. He completed 52.8 percent of his passes for 2552 yards and 11 touchdowns. And he is still the most effective quarterback runner or scrambler in the game. But coach Tom Landry loses what little hair he has remaining on his head whenever Roger puts the ball down and challenges those mean linebackers. He gets his bell rung occasionally and a serious injury could ruin the Cowboys' playoff chances. Clint Longley, the Mad Bomber, had one of those once-in-a-lifetime games in bombing Washington last Thanksgiving Day, but his lack of experience makes him suspect, if only temporarily. It takes time to create the steady effectiveness that he had in his fortune-filled debut.

Running backs—Without Hill, the Cowboy offense definitely will suffer. The halfback is the key runner in the Landry system and Calvin had another big season in '74 while playing out his option. He rushed for 844 yards, a

No. 12—Roger Staubach

DALLAS COWBOYS

4.6 average, and scored 7 touchdowns. His replacement could be either stumpy Robert Newhouse or Charlie Young, a promising '74 rookie who is closer to Hill's size. We'll opt for Young with Newhouse moving to fullback as a possible replacement for the tough old pro, Walt Garrison, who might not return for a 10th season. The depth is only so-so: Doug Dennison, Dennis Morgan and Les Strayhorn.

Receivers—A talented department led by outside receiver Drew Pearson, who caught 62 passes for 1087 yards (17.5 avg.) and 2 touchdowns last season. Golden Richards is improving as the other wide receiver and there's quality depth in the tight ends—Billy Joe Dupree and Jean Fugett. What's more, all of these receivers are young, some with their best years ahead of them. The only dissonant note is that Bob Hayes, once the world's fastest human, and Landry have a unbridgeable communication gap and Hayes likely will be playing for another team before long if he doesn't retire.

Offensive line—Good blocking lines have been a staple of the Dallas organization and this is probably Dallas' most effective unit. Tackle Rayfield Wright is an All Pro. Tackle Ralph Neely had his best season in '74. The guards, Blaine Nye and John Niland, are steady and smart. Good depth, too, in Bruce Walton, Jim Arneson and Rodney Wallace, out last year with a bad back. Add Burton Lawless of Florida, a highly regarded rookie guard.

DEFENSE

Front four—Bob Lilly, the first player drafted by Dallas, is expected back for his 15th season. He has been troubled by back and leg injuries in recent seasons but Landry expects the great tackle to be a starter again—although his playing time may be curtailed. Even if Lilly retires, the Cowboys front four—the cornerstone of the Doomsday Defense—is in good shape. Harvey Martin and Ed "Too Tall" Jones are young, aggressive ends. Jethro Pugh and Bill Gregory, the club's most improved player, are solid tackles. Larry Cole can play either inside or outside. Pat Toomay, a regular last season, apparently has breached his WFL contract but Landry doesn't expect him back. He probably won't be missed. Not much chance for a rookie to break in here and draftee Pat Donovan of Stanford, a defensive lineman, might be moved to offense.

Linebackers—perhaps the only crack in a solid defense. Weak side linebacker D.D. Lewis has a sound contract with Memphis of the WFL. Jordan, the middle man, and strong side backer Dave Edwards are getting on in years at 34 and 35 but are projected as starters again. White, a big defensive lineman in college with reported 4.5 speed, will be converted to middle backer. White was obtained on the first round pick the Cowboys received from the Giants for quarterback Craig Morton. Another first round choice, Tom Henderson of Langston College, figures to bolster the linebacking corps along with veteran safety Cornell Green, whom Landry would like to move up so Charlie Waters, inadequate at cornerback, could move to strong safety. Bob Breunig of Arizona State is another rookie with a chance to play.

Secondary—Two positions are occupied by All-Pro people—Mel Renfro

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
	Austin, Hise	CB	6-4	195	24	Prairie View	2
64	Arneson, Jim	C-G	6-3	252	24	Arizona	3
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	192	24	Stanford	4
10	Carrell, Duane	P	5-10	185	25	Florida State	2
63	Cole, Larry	DE	6-4	250	28	Hawaii	8
21	Dennison, Doug	RB	6-1	195	23	Kutztown State	2
89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE	6-4	228	25	Michigan State	3
52	Edwards, Dave	LB	6-1	226	35	Auburn	13
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	255	27	Boston College	5
15	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	185	30	None	4
84	Fugett, Jean	TE	6-3	226	23	Amherst	4
32	Garrison, Walt	RB	6-0	205	31	Oklahoma State	10
	Gasienica, Leo	QB	6-2	196	24	Rutgers	1
34	Green, Cornell	S	6-3	212	35	Utah State	14
77	Gregory, Bill	DT	6-5	252	25	Wisconsin	5
43	Harris, Cliff	S	6-0	190	26	Ouachita	6
22	Hayes, Bob	WR	5-11	190	31	Florida A&M	11
1	Herrera, Efren	K	5-9	185	24	UCLA	2
86	Houston, Bill	WR	6-3	208	24	Jackson State	2
87	Howard, Ron	TE	6-4	215	24	Seattle	2
59	Hutcherson, Ken	LB	6-1	220	23	Livingston State	2
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	260	24	Tennessee State	2
55	Jordan, Lee Roy	LB	6-1	226	33	Alabama	13
60	Killian, Gene	G	6-4	250	22	Tennessee	2
6	Kokolus, Harry	K	5-10	184	23	Iowa	1
74	Lilly, Bob	DT	6-5	260	36	Texas Christian	15
19	Longley, Clint	QB	6-1	193	23	Abilene Christian	2
51	Manders, Dave	C	6-2	250	34	Michigan State	11
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	252	24	East Texas State	3
37	Morgan, Dennis	RB	5-11	200	23	Western Illinois	2
	Napper, Charles	QB	6-1	195	26	Texas Tech	2
73	Neely, Ralph	T	6-6	255	32	Oklahoma	11
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5-10	205	25	Houston	4
76	Niland, John	G	6-3	255	31	Iowa	10
61	Nye, Blaine	G	6-4	255	29	Stanford	8
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	24	Tulsa	3
58	Peterson, Cal	LB	6-3	220	22	UCLA	2
75	Pugh, Jethro	DT	6-6	250	31	Elizabeth City State	11
20	Renfro, Mel	CB	6-0	192	33	Oregon	12
83	Richards, Golden	WR	6-0	183	25	Hawaii	3
12	Staubach, Roger	QB	6-3	197	33	Navy	7
40	Strayhorn, Les	RB	5-10	205	24	East Carolina	3
57	Walker, Louie	LB	6-1	216	23	Colorado State	2
71	Wallace, Rodney	T	6-5	255	26	New Mexico	4
78	Walton, Bruce	T	6-6	252	24	UCLA	3
46	Washington, Mark	CB	5-10	186	27	Morgan State	6
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-1	193	26	Clemson	6
70	Wright, Rayfield	T	6-6	260	30	Fort Valley State	9
30	Young, Charles	RB	6-1	210	22	North Carolina State	2

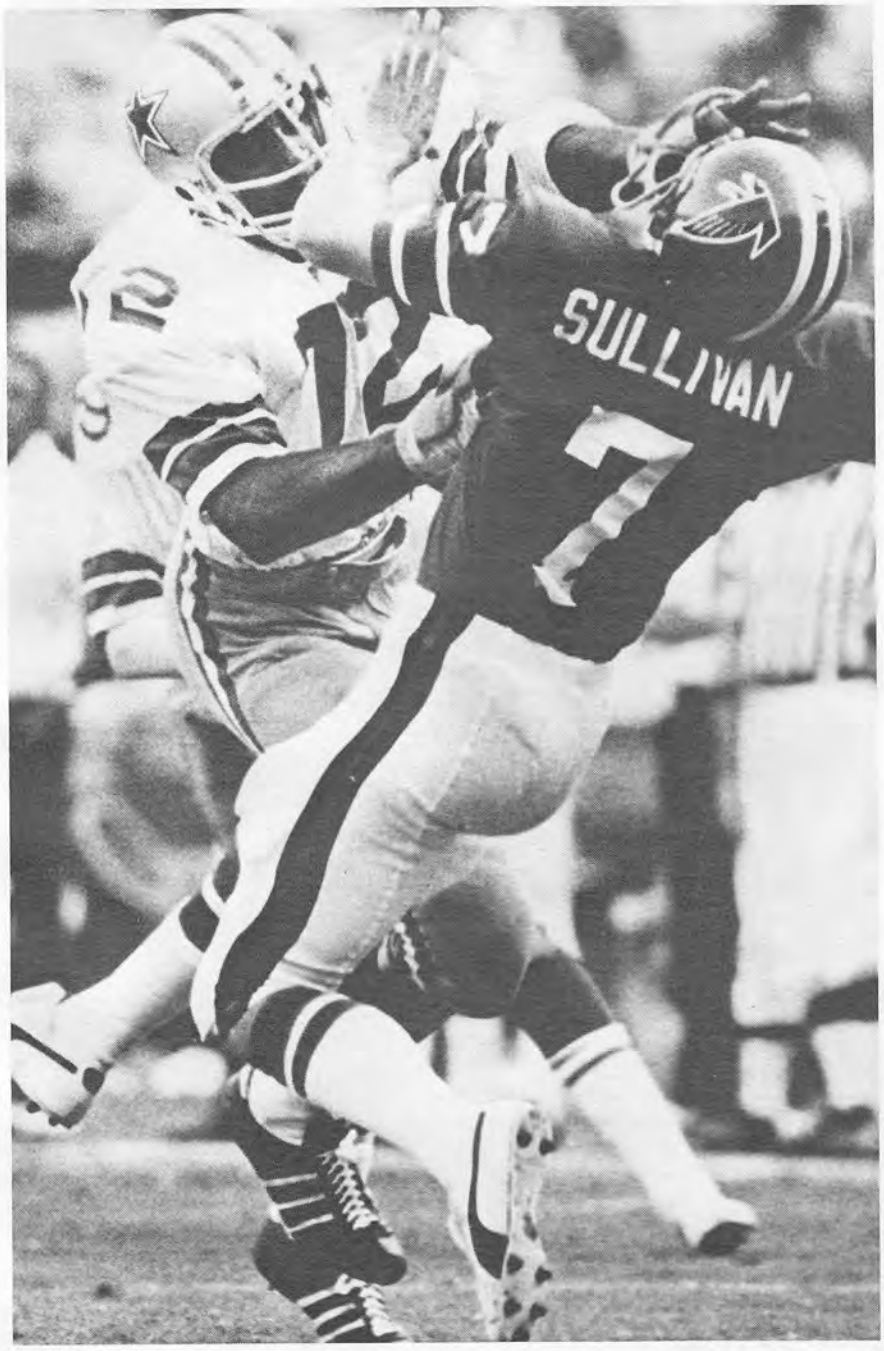
DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
1.	White, Randy	2	LB	Maryland
	from New York Giants			
	Henderson, Tom	18	LB	Langston
2.	Lawless, Burton	44	G	Florida
3.	Breunig, Bob	70	LB	Arizona State
4.	Donovan, Pat	90	DE	Stanford
	from Houston			
	Hughes, Randy	96	DB	Oklahoma
5.	Davis, Kyle	113	C	Oklahoma
	from Green Bay			
6.	Woolsey, Roland	148	DB	Boise State
7.	Hegman, Michael	173	LB	Tennessee State
8.	Hoopes, Mitch	200	P	Arizona
9.	Jones, Ed	226	DB	Rutgers
10.	Booker, Dennis	252	RB	Millersville, Pa.
11.	Krpalek, Greg	278	C	Oregon State
12.	Bland, Charles	304	DB	Cincinnati
13.	Scott, Herbert	330	G	Virginia Union
14.	Laidlaw, Scott	356	RB	Stanford
15.	Hamilton, Willie	382	RB	Arizona
16.	Clark, Pete	407	TE	Colorado State
17.	Testerman, Jim	434	TE	Dayton

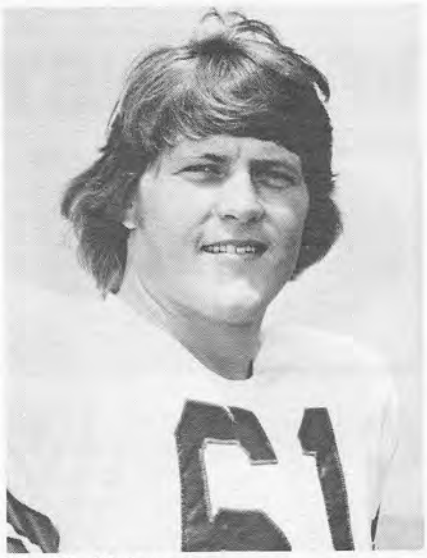
COACHES:
TOM LANDRY, Ermal Allen, Mike Ditka, Ed Hughes, Jim Meyers, Dan Reeves, Alvin Roy, Gene Stallings, Ernie Stautner, Jerry Tubbs.

at right corner and Cliff Harris at free or weak safety. Mark Washington and Bennie Barnes, still unproven, will be contending for the left corner job, along with Hise Austin, formerly with Green Bay but more recently Portland of the WFL and, perhaps, rookie safety Randy Hughes of Oklahoma. Cowboys were No. 2 against the rush in the NFC but only eighth in pass defense as the secondary was burned for 17 touchdown passes.

Special teams—Regular placekicker Toni Fritsch injured his knee last year and his backup Harry Kokolus pulled a groin muscle before the start of the season. So the Cowboys scrambled around and signed UCLA's Efren Herrera, cut by Detroit. Herrera isn't a long-range kicker but he was respectable at short range (8 of 13 overall). The job should be Fritsch's but Herrera, a kicker who doesn't mind making touchdown-saving tackles, may press him for a job. The punting has been in an unsettled state since Rod Widby was traded a few seasons ago. Marv Bateman was too inconsistent and Landry finally gave the job to Duane Carrell, a WFL reject. He got the job done (39.8 avg.) but he'll have to beat out a rookie, Mitch Hoopes of Arizona. Dennis Morgan was a fine punt runner, No. 2 in the NFC (15.1 avg.), but just average as a kickoff return specialist.



No. 72—Ed Jones



No. 61—Blaine Nye

No. 74—Bob Lilly

1974 Season Results
DALLAS (8-6-0)

24		Atlanta	0
10		Philadelphia	13
6	*	N.Y. Giants	14
21	*	Minnesota	23
28		St. Louis	31
31	*	Philadelphia	24
21		N.Y. Giants	7
17	*	St. Louis	14
20	*	San Francisco	14
21		Washington	28
10		Houston	0
24	*	Washington	23
41	*	Cleveland	17
23		Oakland	27

* DENOTES HOME GAME

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

HEAD COACH GEORGE ALLEN

Call them the "Over The Hill Gang," make fun of them because they never have any draft choices, groan over George Allen's tired cliches, but don't bet against the Washington Redskins not making the playoffs for a fifth consecutive year.

Allen knows how to get the most out of a team and even though the Redskins are a little older (they always are), they're still one of the NFL's most formidable teams. They finished 10-4 last season to tie St. Louis for the Eastern Division championship before they were eliminated by the Rams, 19-10, in a first-round playoff game. Allen has compiled a 40-15-1 record during his four-year tenure in Washington—best in the NFC—and he has the nucleus of another strong team.

Allen always seems to adjust. When the Redskin running game broke down last year, Allen stressed passing and the 'Skins were NFL's No. 1 rated team in this department while leading the NFC in scoring with 320 points.

As usual, the defense was robust—top ranked in the conference and allowing only 196 points, fourth fewest in the league.

Allen made most of the news in the off season. He signed quarterback Randy Johnson and running back Ralph Nelson out of the WFL, persuaded aging quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, the great pure passer, to retire, and continued to try to convince Billy Kilmer he doesn't want to trade him and Billy is still the No. 1 quarterback.

The Redskins seemed to peak in 1972 when they made the Super Bowl but they really haven't slipped that much despite early elimination from the playoffs the past two seasons. Who can fault the record? Allen says it will take 11 wins to get in the playoffs in '75 because the NFC East is so competitive. If so, write in 11 wins for the 'Skins.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Allen insists that the 35-year-old Kilmer is still his No. 1 quarterback despite hints that he wants to develop Joe Theismann and the acquisition of Johnson, a part-time No. 1 at Atlanta and New York (NFL) before jumping to Hawaii of the WFL. Kilmer has unquestioned leadership qualities and those who disparage him as a passer should look at the '74 numbers: No. 3 in the NFC while completing 58.5 percent of his throws. Theismann, used mainly on special teams last year as an NFL "rookie" following service in Canada, is an exciting roll-out, pass-run type quarterback. Some say Johnson, a pretty fair thrower, is underrated. Oth-

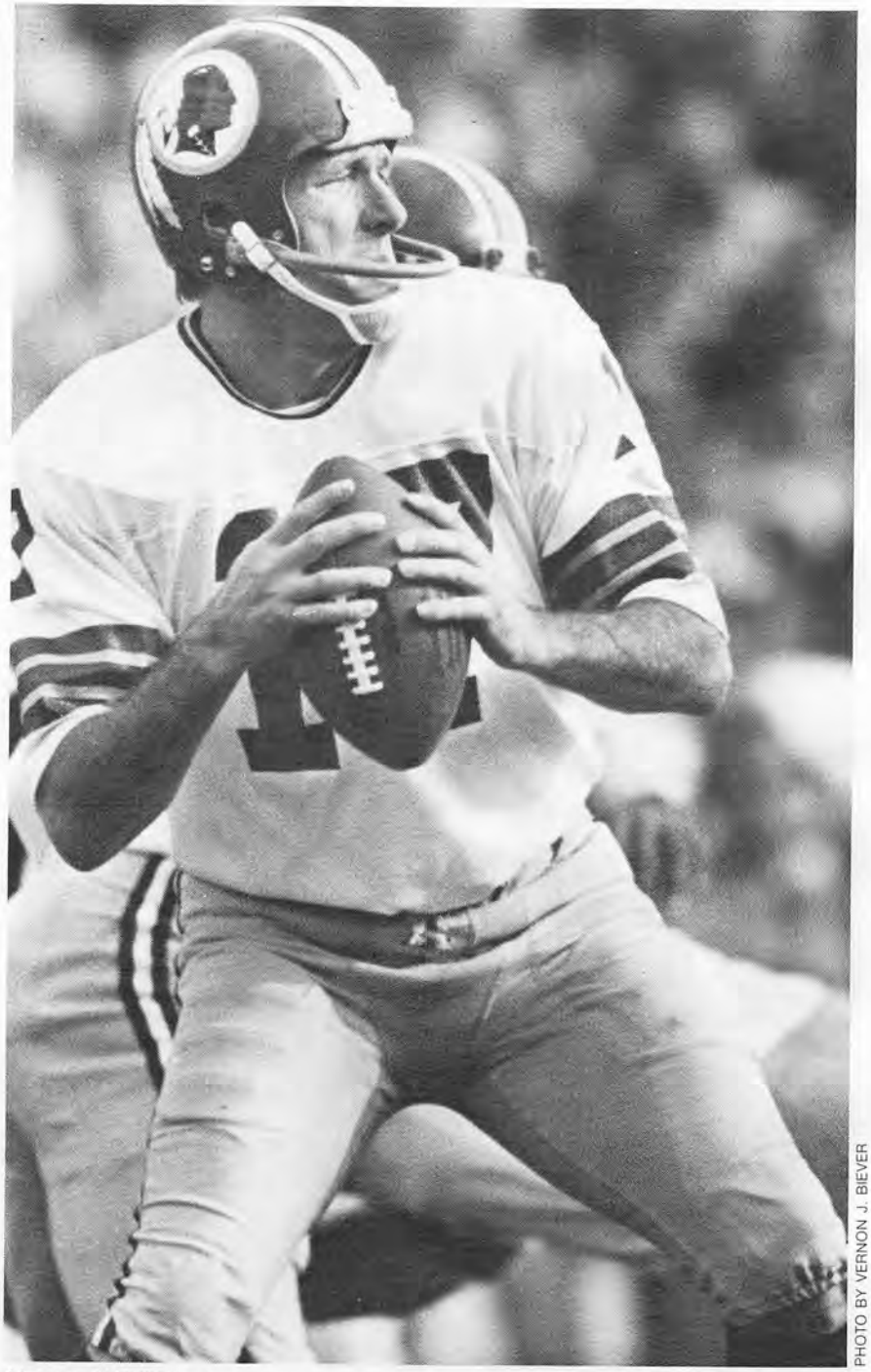


PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 17—Bill Kilmer

ers say he's just a journeyman. But if Allen, a shrewd judge of talent, likes him he must have something. However, the Redskins won't seem the same without Jurgensen, who won the NFC passing title last year at age 40. He didn't fit into George's future plans because of his age, inability to resist injuries in recent years and his $120,000 a year salary—too high in a spendthrift franchise.

Running backs—If Larry Brown, hobbled most of '74, can come back from knee surgery and the offensive line, which broke down, can increase its run blocking effectiveness, the 'Skins should improve on their embarrassing 23rd rushing ranking of last year. Brown averaged over 1000 yards in his first five seasons but fell off to 430 last year. Allen has enough running talent but is short on outside speed. A key could be Duane Thomas, whom Allen has kept under wraps. The once great runner with the strange, uncommunicative attitude showed a bit of his old spark in the second Dallas game. Others who can contribute are fullback Moses Denson, dependable Larry Smith (sidelined by injuries at mid-season), ex-Giant Charlie Evans and Herb Mul-key and Bob Brunet, returning from injuries.

Receivers—In Charley Taylor (1), Roy Jefferson (3) and Jerry Smith (4), the Redskins have three of the top four active receivers in the NFC and, appropriately, Allen says he wouldn't trade his group for any other in the league. Taylor caught 54 passes for 738 yards last season, tight end Smith 44 for 554 and Jefferson 43 for 314. The running backs caught the other passes but Allen has some experienced reserve receivers in tight end Alvin Reed, a former star at Houston, Frank Grant, who filled in for Jefferson and Taylor, and Bill Malinchak, a tough special teams performer.

Offensive line—A lot of problems if tackle Terry Hermeling, perhaps the best lineman, doesn't rebound from two knee operations, and Pro Bowl center Len Hauss retires. Paul Laaveg is potentially a fine guard, while Walt Sweeney has seen better years. Ray Schoenke replaced Hermeling last year but he has his own knee problems. His backup, Jim Tyrer, has retired. Allen believes that tackle George Starke has All-Pro potential. If so, he will have to stand up and be counted now because help is needed.

DEFENSE

Front four—There's not much speed in this group and the defensive ends, Ron McDole, 36, and Verlon Biggs, 32, have lost a step or two, but there's plenty of savvy and pride. Tackle Diron Talbert had one of his best seasons in '74 and Bill Brundige, the other tackle, is under 30 and improving. Manny Sistrunk, strong physically, missed most of the season with an ankle sprain and his return should bolster the team. There's a youthful prospect, too, in Dennis Johnson, second-year pro from Delaware.

Linebackers—Middle backer Harold McLinton arrived as a pro last season

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
	Aldridge, Allen	DE	6-6	250	30	Prairie View	4
41	Bass, Mike	CB	6-0	190	30	Michigan	8
86	Biggs, Verlon	DE	6-4	275	32	Jackson State	11
4	Bragg, Mike	P	5-11	186	28	Richmond	8
43	Brown, Larry	RB	5-11	195	28	Kansas State	7
77	Brundige, Bill	DT	6-5	270	26	Colorado	6
26	Brunet, Bob	RB	6-1	205	29	Louisiana Tech	6
	Carroll, Joe	LE	6-1	225	25	Pittsburgh	3
40	Cunningham, Doug	RB	6-0	195	30	Mississippi	9
44	Denson, Moses	RB	6-1	215	31	Maryland-E.S.	2
59	Dusek, Brad	LB	6-2	214	24	Texas A&M	2
31	Evans, Charlie	RB	6-1	220	27	Southern California	5
37	Fischer, Pat	CB	5-9	170	35	Nebraska	15
	Fleming, Marv	TE	6-4	230	33	Utah	13
46	Grant, Frank	WR	5-11	181	25	South Colorado State	3
55	Hanburger, Chris	LB	6-2	218	34	North Carolina	11
84	Hancock, Mike	TE	6-4	220	25	Idaho State	3
56	Hauss, Len	C	6-2	235	33	Georgia	12
75	Hermeling, Terry	T	6-5	255	28	Nevada-Reno	5
27	Houston, Ken	S	6-3	198	30	Prairie View	9
	Howard, Leroy	CB	5-11	179	26	Bishop	2
25	Hull, Mike	RB	6-3	220	29	Southern California	8
66	Imhof, Martin	DE	6-6	256	25	San Diego State	3
	Isenbarger, John	WR	6-3	196		28Indiana	4
80	Jefferson, Roy	WR	6-2	195	31	Utah	11
	Johnson, Carl	G-T	6-4	255	25	Nebraska	3
61	Johnson, Dennis	DT	6-4	260	23	Delaware	2
	Johnson, Randy	QB	6-3	205	35	Texas A&I	9
21	Jones, Larry	CB	5-10	170	24	N.E. Missouri State	1
17	Kilmer, Bill	QB	6-0	204	35	UCLA	14
	Kuziel, Bob	C	6-5	255	25	Pittsburgh	1
73	Laaveg, Paul	G	6-4	250	26	Iowa	6
24	Malinchak, Bill	WR	6-1	200	31	Indiana	10
79	McDole, Ron	DE	6-4	265	35	Nebraska	15
53	McLinton, Harold	LB	6-2	235	28	Southern	7
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	205	27	Austin State	4
57	O'Dell, Stu	LB	6-1	220	23	Indiana	2
23	Owens, Brig	S	5-11	190	32	Cincinnati	10
	Overmyer, Bill	LB	6-3	220	26	Ashland	2
	Parson, Ray	TE	6-5	239	28	Minnesota	3
52	Pergine, John	LB	6-1	225	29	Notre Dame	7
88	Reed, Alvin	TE	6-5	235	31	Prairie View	9
	Reppond, Mike	WR	6-0	185	24	Arkansas	2
	Robinson, Craig	T	6-4	250	26	Houston	3
34	Robinson, Darwin	RB	6-1	190	23	Dakota State	1
89	Robinson, Dave	LB	6-3	245	34	Penn State	13
	Rogers, Melvin	LB	6-2	233	28	Florida A&M	4
51	Ryczek, Dan	C	6-3	245	26	Virginia	3
30	Salter, Bryant	S	6-5	196	25	Pittsburgh	5
62	Schoenke, Ray	G	6-4	250	34	Southern Methodist	12
64	Sistrunk, Manny	DT	6-5	265	28	Arkansas AM&N	5
87	Smith, Jerry	TE	6-3	208	32	Arizona State	11
38	Smith, Larry	RB	6-3	220	27	Florida	7
	Speyrer, Cotton	WR	6-0	175	26	Texas	4
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	249	26	Columbia	3
20	Stone, Ken	S	6-1	179	24	Vanderbilt	3
63	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	24	Bowling Green	2
78	Sweeney, Walt	G	6-4	254	34	Syracuse	13
72	Talbert, Diron	DT	6-5	255	31	Texas	9
42	Taylor, Charley	WR	6-3	210	33	Arizona State	12
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	184	25	Notre Dame	1
47	Thomas, Duane	RB	6-2	215	28	West Texas State	5
67	Tillman, Rusty	LB	6-2	230	29	Northern Arizona	6
29	Vactor, Ted	CB	6-0	185	31	Nebraska	6
58	Varty, Mike	LB	6-1	220	23	Northwestern	1
	Wyatt, Alvin	CB	5-10	185	27	Bethune-Cookman	5

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
5.	Thomas, Mike from Chicago	108	RB	Nevada-Las Vegas
6.	Doak, Mark from Denver	147	T	Nebraska
9.	Hickman, Dallas	228	DE	California
11.	Johnson, Ardell from Denver	277	DB	Nebraska
	Hackenbruck, Jerry	282	DE	Oregon State
13.	McKie, Morris	344	DB	North Carolina A&T
14.	Benson, Dave	359	LB	Weber State
15.	Kuehn, Art	384	C	UCLA
16.	Pavelka, Dennis	412	G	Nebraska
17.	Taylor, Carl	437	DE	Memphis State

COACHES:
GEORGE ALLEN, Bill Austin, Dick Bielski, Ralph Hawkins, Jim Hilyer, Paul Lanham, Kirk Mee, LaVern Torgeson, Charlie Waller, Joe Walton.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

before breaking his leg in a late, regular season game against the Rams. If McLinton doesn't have any complication from the injury, he should be a good one. He has size (6-2, 235) and speed. He's flanked by the defensive general, smart Chris Hanburger, a Pro Bowl veteran, and ex-Packer Dave Robinson, 34, who has lost his swift but is compensating with his knowledge. Rusty Tillman was a good backup for McLinton while John Pergine is a reliable reserve and young Brad Dusek and Stu O'Dell figure in the Redskins' future.

Secondary—Quality but not much depth. Cornerbacks Mike Bass and Pat Fischer and safeties Ken Houston and Brig Owens and reserve Ken Stone were THE secondary last year because of injuries. But they got the job done. Deep backs accounted for most of the NFC-leading 25 interceptions. Strong safety Houston is an All Pro. Bass had a fine '74 season. Fischer, 35, will be returning for his 15th season. Reserves are Stone, Ted Vactor and Bryant Salter, the last two coming back from injuries.

Special teams—Punter Mike Bragg (38.1 average) had to do double duty when placekicker Mark Moseley pulled a leg muscle late in the season. Before his injury, Mosely made 18 of 30 field goals. Larry Jones, picked up from the Eagles on waivers, proved to be a bargain as a kickoff runner. He was No. 2 in the NFC (29.2 avg.) and his 102-yard TD return versus Philadelphia was the longest of the season. Theismann handled punt returns, averaging 10.5. He probably won't have assignment this season. Special teams always are an Allen strong point and they contributed to the team's No. 1 rating in takeaways-giveaways with a plus 20.

No. 55—Chris Hanburger

No. 42—Charley Taylor

No. 43—Larry Brown

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

No. 27—Ken Houston

1974 Season Results
WASHINGTON (10-4-0)

13	N.Y. Giants	10
10	*St. Louis	17
30	*Denver	3
17	Cincinnati	28
20	*Miami	17
24	*N.Y. Giants	3
20	St. Louis	23
17	Green Bay	6
27	Philadelphia	20
28	*Dallas	21
26	*Philadelphia	7
23	Dallas	24
23	Los Angeles	17
42	*Chicago	0

* DENOTES HOME GAME

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

HEAD COACH MIKE McCORMACK

At the outset of last season it was generally believed that if the Eagles got a respectable defense to go with their high-flying offense, look out. A division title or, at least, a wild card spot in the playoffs was a distinct possibility.

Well, the Eagle defense achieved a measure of respectability but the offense went flat and, as a result, Philly got a 7-7 finish out of the money.

Still, it was the best Philadelphia record since 1966.

Okay, what happened to the offense? *One*, the offensive line failed to protect Roman Gabriel as it did in '73 and the veteran quarterback was sacked 35 times in the 11 games he started. *Two*, Gabriel wasn't as sharp as he was the previous season when he completed 270 passes including 23 for touchdowns while compiling 3219 yards through the air. *Three*, injuries to coach Mike McCormack's fullbacks made the running game almost nonexistent. The Eagles were the NFL's second worst rushing team—ahead of Houston only—with a 98.9 yard average per game.

The Eagles started fast enough, winning four of their first five games. Then the drought. Six straight losses and the season was only partly saved when rookie quarterback Mike Boryla of Stanford delivered victories in the closing three games.

McCormack beefed up his running back corps by acquiring John Tarver of New England and Art Malone of Atlanta in off-season trades. But if one problem is solved, he might be facing another one. Gabriel is the shaky No. 1 quarterback, facing a challenge from Boryla and a long-discontent Ed John Reaves, who was No. 1 before Gabe came to the Eagles two years ago in a trade that stocked the Rams with high draft choices.

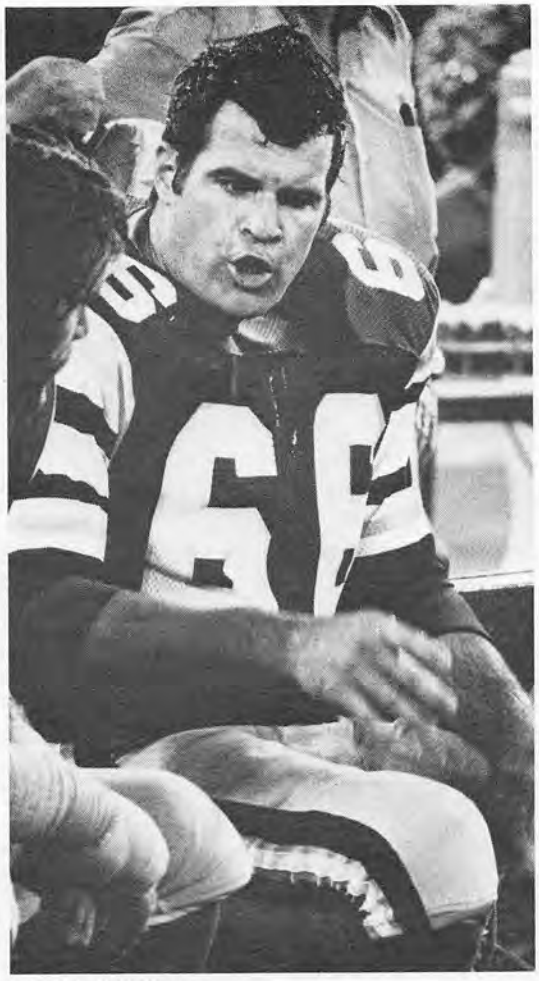
Gabriel doesn't like to share his job with anyone else and voiced his feelings in Los Angeles where he once alternated with Bill Munson and then asked to be traded when the club acquired John Hadl.

The quarterback issue aside, the Eagles will have to improve within their own ranks because they didn't get any help from the draft. They didn't make a selection until the seventh round, having previously traded away their high draft choices.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Boryla, a big (6-3) quarterback like Gabriel, had impressive statistics in his short term as a

No. 5—Roman Gabriel



No. 66—Bill Bergey

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

starter. He completed 58.8 percent of his passes for 580 yards and 5 touchdowns and was intercepted only three times. Gabriel had a low interception ratio, 3.5, as usual, but his yardage (1867) and touchdown throws (9) fell off considerably from 1973. Reaves saw only spot action, completing 5 of 20 for 84 yards.

Running backs—Fullback Norm Bulaich and Po James were in and out of the lineup with injuries last season. The addition of Malone and Tarver to alternate with Bulaich should bolster the fullback position. Reliable halfback Tom Sullivan accounted for more than half of the Eagles' total rushing yardage (1385) with 760 yards—208 yards less than he gained in 1973. He'll be backed up by James, returning to a more familiar position. Other runners, who saw only token service last year, are Randy Jackson, Greg Oliver and Tom Bailey.

Receiving—Harold Carmichael, one of the league's largest targets at 6-8, had another outstanding season, with 56 catches for 649 yards and 8 touchdowns. The other starting outside receiver, Don Zimmerman, caught 30 for 368 yards. Zimmerman may be pressed by Charles Smith, his hometown pal from Monroe, La. Smith, perhaps, is the team's fastest man. Bob Picard and Wes Chesson are reserve wide receivers who also contribute on special teams. Charlie Young said he was the NFL's best tight end after his impressive rookie season in 1973 when he caught 55 passes for 854 yards. Well, he out-did himself in receptions in '74 with 63 to lead the NFC. The ex-USC star is backed up by veteran Kent Kramer, who, understandably, doesn't see much action.

Offensive line—A problem spot last year and, perhaps, again in 1975. A replacement must be found for tackle Steve Smith, who went to Atlanta in the Malone deal. Herb Dobbins and Richard Stevens will try to fill in here with guard Wade Key, a former tackle, another possibility. Mark Nordquist, a starter in other years, has been traded to Chicago for a draft choice so Key, Roy Kirksey and Tom Luken figure at guard. Tackle Jerry Sisemore and center Guy Morriss, both in their third year, are considered to have All-Pro potential. A rookie may figure among this group: tackle Bill Capraun of Miami, the Eagles' "first" choice—seventh round. This unit must improve in both pass and run blocking.

DEFENSE

The Eagles finished 18th overall in NFL defense but that figure is a bit misleading. Only 217 points were permitted, the first time since the advent of the 14-game schedule that a Philadelphia defense has allowed less than 300 points. Only six other teams gave up fewer points and five made the playoffs. Other commendable statistics were a club record 28 sacks and only nine touchdown passes allowed.

Front four—After years of mediocrity, the Eagles finally put together a sound defensive line. It could be better in '75 as Carter Campbell, a former Giant who played in the WFL last season, is projected as a starting left end. If so, Will Wynn, a left-side starter in '74, will move to the right side to contest Joe (Turkey) Jones, whose seven sacks topped the team. Jones, a Cleveland import, and tackle Jerry Patton, ex-Buffalo, made valid contributions along with Mitch Sutton, a second year pro. Sutton and Bill Dunstan may be locked in a position fight, however.

Linebackers—Bill Bergey, acquired from Cincinnati, gave the Eagle defense the leadership it lacked since the days of Chuck Bednarik, according to McCormack. Bergey, an All Pro, led the club in unassisted tackles with 111 and had five interceptions. He was flanked by Steve Zabel, 108 tackles, and John Bunting. Dean Halverson is

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
31	Bailey, Tom	RB	6-2	211	26	Florida State	5
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	250	30	Arkansas State	7
10	Boryla, Mike	QB	6-3	200	24	Stanford	2
28	Bradley, Bill	S-P	5-11	190	28	Texas	7
36	Bulaich, Norm	RB	6-1	218	28	Texas Christian	6
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	25	North Carolina	4
78	Cagle, Jim	DT	6-5	255	23	Georgia	2
	Campbell, Carter	DE	6-4	240	27	Weber State	5
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR	6-8	225	25	Southern	5
21	Chesson, Wes	WR	6-2	189	26	Duke	5
8	Coleman, Al	S	6-0	183	30	Tennessee State	7
75	Cullars, Willie	DE	6-5	250	24	Kansas State	2
67	Dobbins, Herb	T	6-4	260	24	San Diego State	2
61	Dunstan, Bill	DT	6-4	250	26	Utah State	3
5	Gabriel, Roman	QB	6-4	220	35	North Carolina State	14
56	Halverson, Dean	LB	6-2	230	29	Washington	7
33	Jackson, Randy	RB	6-0	220	26	Wichita State	4
27	James, Ron	RB	6-1	202	26	New Mexico State	4
64	Jones, Joe	DE	6-6	250	27	Tennessee State	5
37	Kersey, Merritt	P	6-1	205	25	West Chester, Pa.	2
72	Key, Wade	G	6-5	245	28	Southwest Texas State	6
65	Kirksey, Roy	G	6-1	255	27	Maryland-E.S.	5
87	Kramer, Kent	TE	6-4	235	30	Minnesota	9
30	Lavender, Joe	CB	6-4	190	26	San Diego State	3
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	224	23	Kentucky	2
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	24	Michigan	3
63	Luken, Tom	G	6-3	253	25	Purdue	4
26	Malone, Art	RB	6-0	216	27	Arizona State	6
22	Marshall, Larry	S	5-10	195	25	Maryland	4
50	Morriss, Guy	C	6-4	245	24	Texas Christian	3
16	Muhlmann, Horst	K	6-2	219	35	None	7
48	Oliver, Greg	RB	6-0	192	26	Trinity	3
20	Outlaw, John	CB	5-10	180	29	Jackson State	7
24	Parker, Artimus	S	6-3	215	25	Southern California	2
82	Picard, Bob	WR	6-1	195	25	Eastern Washington	3
7	Reaves, John	QB	6-3	210	25	Florida	4
45	Reeves, Marion	CB	6-1	195	23	Clemson	2
52	Reilly, Kevin	LB	6-2	220	23	Villanova	3
76	Sisemore, Jerry	T	6-4	250	24	Texas	3
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	25	Grambling	2
73	Stevens, Richard	T	6-4	245	27	Baylor	6
25	Sullivan, Tom	RB	6-0	190	25	Miami	4
79	Sutton, Mitch	DT	6-4	265	24	Kansas	2
49	Tarver, John	RB	6-3	220	26	Colorado	4
71	Wynn, Will	DE	6-4	245	26	Tennessee State	3
86	Young, Charles	TE	6-4	238	24	Southern California	3
89	Zabel, Steve	LB	6-4	234	27	Oklahoma	6
80	Zimmerman, Don	WR	6-3	195	25	Northeast Louisiana	3

DRAFT CHOICES

Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
7.	Capraun, Bill	167	T	Miami
8.	Bleamer, Jeff	198	T	Penn State
10.	Schroy, Ken	248	DB	Maryland
11.	Rowen, Keith	273	G	Stanford
12.	Pawlewicz, Richard	298	RB	William & Mary
13.	Ehlers, Tom	324	LB	Kentucky
14.	O'Rourke, Larry	355	DT	Ohio State
15.	Korver, Clayton	379	DE	Northwestern, Iowa
16.	Jones, Calvin	404	WR	Texas Tech
17.	Webb, Gary	429	DE	Temple

COACHES:
MIKE McCORMACK, Boyd Dowler, John Idzik, Dick LeBeau, John Mazur, Walt Michaels, John Sandusky, Jerry Wampfler.

back as an experienced reserve, while Kevin Reilly, Bergey's backup, excels on special teams.

Secondary—Although the Eagles allowed only nine touchdown passes, the secondary was violated for an average of 176.6 passing yards a game. Still it was a serviceable unit led by strong safety Randy Logan, big-play cornerback Joe Lavender and veteran free safety Bill Bradley. The other starter was cornerback John Outlaw, consistent and quick at 5-10, 180. Lavender, called the Big Bird, gained a measure of fame when he ran 96 yards to a touchdown with a fumble recovery in a nationally televised game against Dallas. Ex-Bear Charley Ford didn't help the Eagles and was sent to Houston for a draft choice. Artimus Parker, a rookie last season, is capable of playing either safety position.

Special teams—McCormack felt that long-distance FG kicker Tom Dempsey was too much of a luxury under the new rules and traded him to the Rams. So the Eagles picked up Horst Muhlmann from the Bengals. Merritt Kersey, a tryout camp discovery, did most of the punting last year but must develop more consistency. He averaged only 36.1 yards. Bradley, of course, is available as punter, holder and punt returner, averaging 11.3 yards in 1974. Larry Marshall, Randy Jackson and Po James share kickoff return duties again.

No. 25—Tom Sullivan

No. 17—Harold Carmichael

No. 86—Charles Young

1974 Season Results

PHILADELPHIA (7-7-0)

3	St. Louis	7
13	*Dallas	10
30	*Baltimore	10
13	San Diego	7
35	*N.Y. Giants	7
24	Dallas	31
10	New Orleans	14
0	Pittsburgh	27
20	*Washington	27
3	*St. Louis	13
7	Washington	26
36	*Green Bay	14
20	N.Y. Giants	7
28	*Detroit	17

* DENOTES HOME GAME

NEW YORK GIANTS

HEAD COACH BILL ARNSPARGER

Bill Arnsparger is a respected football man, building the famed "No-Name" defense at Miami and ably assisting Don Shula as the Dolphins won back-to-back Super Bowls.

But Arnsparger found out in his first head coaching assignment with the Giants that there is simply no substitute for talent and experience—both shortcomings in the New York organization.

So the Giants floundered again, winning only 2 of 14 games after a 2-11-1 finish in 1973. For sure, with a break here or there, the record might have been better as six of the defeats were by a cumulative 22 points and four of the six setbacks came in the final minute including an overtime loss to the Jets.

But this doesn't alter the overall picture. Arnsparger and his staff have a lot of rebuilding to do with a club that finished 24th in the NFL in total defense.

It was a year of transition for the Giants—as '75 might be—with 16 rookies making the 47-man roster in addition to 10 players brought in by trades.

And, symptomatic with a losing team is some dissension. For example, the Giants MVP, defensive tackle John Mendenhall, criticized the organization and even asked to be traded. But there are some positive signs for 1975—namely the fact that quarterback Craig Morton will be with the club the entire season.

Morton, a No. 1-type quarterback who was No. 2 behind Roger Staubach at Dallas, came to the Giants in mid-season and, of course, had to take a crash course to familiarze himself with a new system. Morton is no longer committed to the WFL because the contract was breached, so he belongs to the Giants.

Before Morton arrived, the defense was fairly respectable but the offense faltered. Morton gave the offense a lift but then the defense broke down.

The Giants probably will improve on their 2-12 record but not enough to be a contender in one of the NFL's toughest divisions.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Morton, 32, a 10-year veteran, threw 9 touchdown passes but was intercepted 13 times down the stretch. Still, he's the best quarterback the Giants have had since Fran Tarkenton was traded back to Minnesota. And he has been under pressure before, leading the Cowboys into their first Super Bowl in 1971 when Staubach was hurt. It's his show as there isn't much behind him. Only Jim Del Gaizo, who flopped at Green Bay, an inexperienced Carl Summerell and Eagle cast-off Rick Arrington.

Running backs—One of the club's better units, especially if Ron Johnson, a former All Pro and 1000-yard rusher, can resist injury—something he couldn't do in '74. It was a lost season for the gifted Johnson, also a fine receiver. He wound up with only 218 yards on 97 carries. With Johnson inoperative, Joe Dawkins, obtained in trade with Denver, picked up the slack

No. 15—Craig Morton

(561 yards rushing, 46 catches) along with rookies Doug Kotar and Leon McQuay. Other returnees are Steve Crosby and Mickey Zofko, plus rookies Marsh White of Arkansas and Jim O'Connor of Drake. Joining the crowd is Lawrence Watkins, ex-Buffalo, obtained for a draft choice.

Receiving—The Giants drafted for some outside receiving speed in All-American Danny Buggs of West Virginia (No. 3), a big (6-3, 188), 9.5 sprinter. He'll contest veteran Bob Grim at one outside spot with the other spot secured by Walker Gillette, who caught 29 passes for 466 yards. Don Hermann, Ray Rhodes and Don Clune are the reserve wide receivers. Bob Tucker was a reliable, pass-catching tight end again with 41 receptions for 496 yards. He'll be supported by Chip Glass and rookie Jim Obradovich (No. 7), who made some clutch catches in USC's Rose Bowl win over Ohio State.

Offensive line—The 1974 draft rewarded the Giants with two starting guards, John Hicks and Tom Mullen, who made the all-NFL rookie team. Another newcomer, Al Simpson of Colorado State, the Giants first 1975 selection (second round), is expected to contest Willie Young at left tackle. Doug Van Horn, at right tackle, and Bob Hyland, at center, are the other incumbents. Reserves include Karl Chandler, Dick Enderle and John Hill. A young group that should improve this year.

DEFENSE

Front four—A potential All Pro in Mendenhall and a former All Pro in Jack Gregory. Otherwise, a scramble for starting positions among veterans Roy Hilton, Gary Pettigrew and Jim Pietrzak, who came on strong at midseason as a rookie. Pettigrew is a possible starter at either end or tackle. Others in the competition are Henry Reed, Larry Jacobson and George Hasenohrl and, possibly, rookies George Martin and Jim Micklos. Run defense was respectable at times but pass rush (25 sacks) could improve.

Linebackers—One reason for the Giants' faltering defense in '74 was that there were only five holdover starters—Mendenhall, Gregory, linebacker Pat Hughes and defensive backs Spider Lockhart and Pete Athas—and the defenders were trying to learn the intricacies of Arnsparger's "53" defense he brought with him from Miami. The linebackers went through the greatest transition. Hughes went from weakside to strongside backer; Bob Van Pelt, a Bob Hendricks-type (6-5, 235), became a weakside starter in his second year and Brian Kelley stepped into the middle. There'll be plenty of competition from Ron Hornsby, a former starter in the middle who was sidelined part of the season by injury; Rick Dvorak and Andy Selfridge along with two rookies—John (Wildman) Tate of Jackson State (No. 8) and Terry McClowry of Michigan State (No. 10), who led the Spartans in tackles.

Secondary—Although defense is team oriented and a secondary is usually only as effective as the pass rush. Arnsparger must upgrade his deep defense that was nicked for 22 touchdown passes (a tie for high in the

1975 ROSTER

VETERANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	Yr.
	Arrington, Rick	QB	6-2	195	25	Georgia	5
45	Athas, Pete	CB	5-11	185	27	Tennessee	5
	Bond, Sid	T	6-4	270	24	Texas Christian	1
37	Brooks, Bobby	CB	6-1	195	24	Bishop	2
	Buchanon, Carlton	DT	6-3	250	24	S.W. Oklahoma State	1
61	Chandler, Karl	C	6-5	250	23	Princeton	2
88	Clune, Don	WR	6-3	195	23	Pennsylvania	2
24	Crist, Chuck	S	6-2	205	24	Penn State	4
33	Crosby, Steve	RB	5-11	205	25	Fort Hays	2
	Curbow, Kelley	T	6-5	255	25	Missouri	1
26	Dawkins, Joe	RB	6-2	220	27	Wisconsin	6
12	DelGaizo, Jim	QB	6-1	190	28	Tampa	4
66	Dvorak, Rick	DE	6-4	235	23	Wichita State	2
62	Enderle, Dick	G	6-2	250	28	Minnesota	7
	Fersen, Paul	T	6-5	260	25	Georgia	2
	Gaines, Palmer	RB	6-1	210	23	Delaware State	1
84	Gillette, Walker	WR	6-5	200	28	Richmond	6
83	Glass, Chip	TE	6-4	235	28	Florida State	7
3	Gogolak, Pete	K	6-1	190	33	Cornell	12
81	Gregory, Jack	DE	6-5	255	30	Delta State	9
27	Grim, Bob	WR	6-0	200	30	Oregon State	9
72	Hasenohrl, George	DT	6-1	260	24	Ohio State	2
	Hedge, Bill	T	6-5	265	23	Northeast Missouri	1
85	Herrmann, Don	WR	6-2	205	28	Waynesburg	7
74	Hicks, John	G	6-2	258	24	Ohio State	2
52	Hill, John	T	6-2	245	25	Lehigh	4
78	Hilton, Roy	DE	6-6	240	32	Jackson State	11
67	Hornsby, Ron	LB	6-3	228	26	Southeast Louisiana	5
56	Hughes, Pat	LB	6-2	225	28	Boston	6
70	Hyland, Bob	C	6-5	255	30	Boston College	9
22	Jackson, Honor	CB	6-2	195	26	Pacific	4
75	Jacobson, Larry	DT	6-6	260	25	Nebraska	4
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	24	St. Lawrence	2
30	Johnson, Ron	RB	6-1	205	27	Michigan	7
55	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3	222	24	California Lutheran	3
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11	205	24	Kentucky	2
43	Lockhart, Carl	S	6-2	175	32	North Texas State	11
	May, John	DE	6-3	250	23	Cent. Conn. State	1
	McCartney, Ed	TE	6-3	230	24	Northeast Oklahoma	1
25	McQuay, Leon	RB	5-9	195	25	Tampa	2
64	Mendenhall, John	DT	6-1	255	26	Grambling	4
	Metallo, Paul	CB	5-10	195	24	Massachusetts	1
15	Morton, Craig	QB	6-4	210	32	California	11
73	Mullen, Tom	G	6-3	245	23	S.W. Missouri State	2
	O'Brien, Jim	K	6-1	195	28	Cincinnati	6
	Ostermam, Bill	T	6-4	255	23	Utah	1
71	Pettigrew, Gary	DT	6-5	255	30	Stanford	10
76	Pietrzak, Jim	DT	6-5	260	22	Eastern Michigan	2
39	Powers, Clyde	S	6-1	195	24	Oklahoma	2
80	Reed, Henry	LB	6-3	230	27	Weber State	5
82	Rhodes, Ray	WR	5-11	185	24	Tulsa	2
57	Selfridge, Andy	LB	6-3	220	26	Virginia	4
54	Singletary, Bill	LB	6-2	230	24	Temple	2
18	Small, Eldridge	CB	6-1	190	26	Texas A&I	4
20	Stienke, Jim	CB	5-11	182	25	Southwest Texas State	3
48	Stuckey, Henry	CB	6-1	180	26	Missouri	3
19	Summerell, Carl	QB	6-4	208	23	East Carolina	2
	Thomas, Bernard	DT	6-4	250	24	Western Michigan	1
38	Tucker, Bob	TE	6-3	230	30	Bloomsburg, Pa.	6
63	Van Horn, Doug	T	6-3	245	31	Ohio State	9
63	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	24	Michigan State	3
	Wafer, Carl	DT	6-3	250	24	Tennessee State	2
	Watkins, Larry	RB	6-1	235	29	Alcorn A&M	7
	White, Jeff	K	5-10	175	26	Texas-El Paso	2
69	Young, Willie	T	6-0	255	32	Grambling	10
34	Zofko, Mickey	RB	6-1	195	26	Auburn	5

DRAFT CHOICES

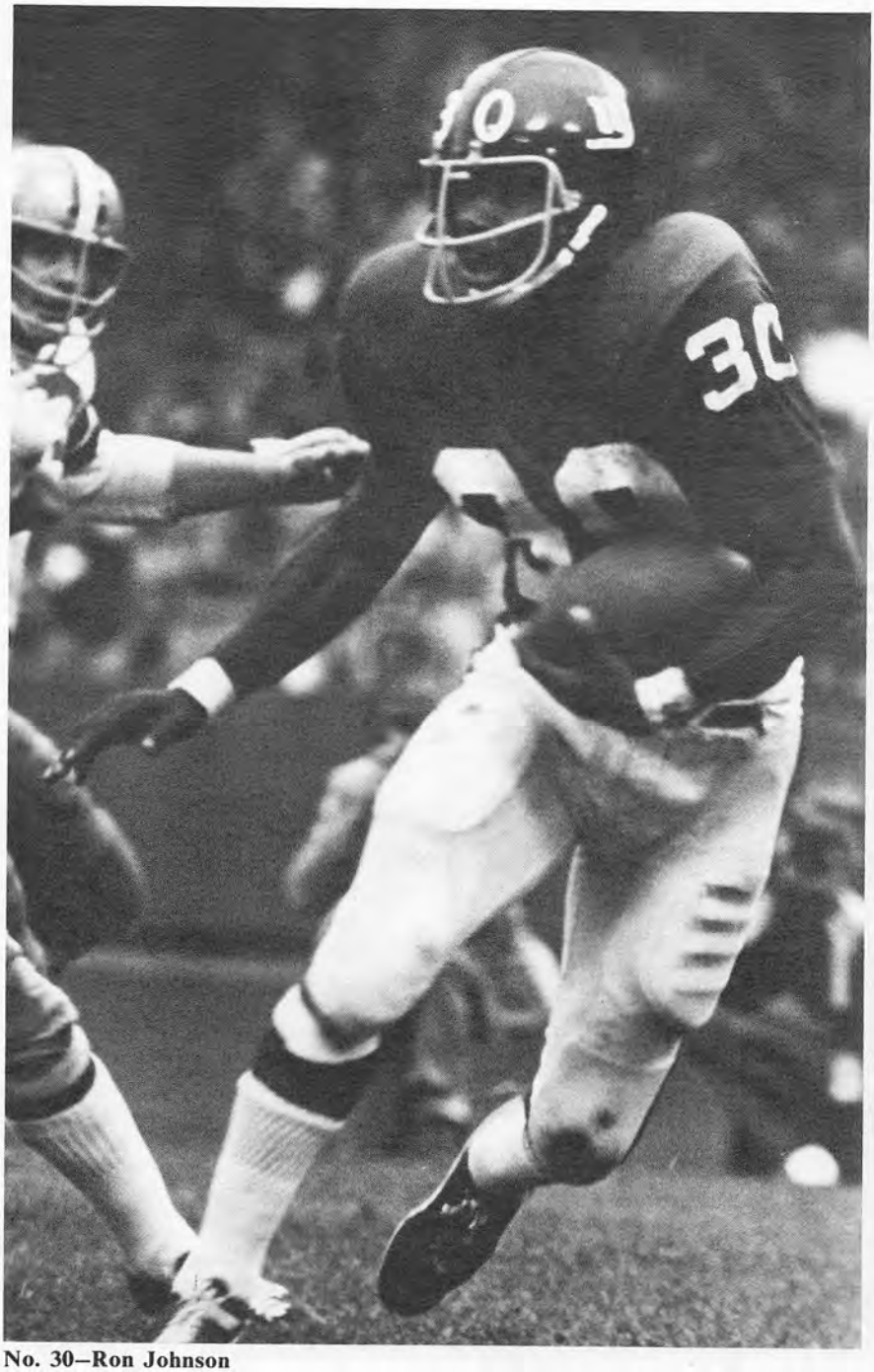
Choice	Name	No. Selection	Pos.	College
2.	Simpson, Al	27	T	Colorado State
3.	Buggs, Danny from San Francisco	62	WR	West Virginia
4.	Giblin, Robert	79	DB	Houston
7.	Obradovich, Jim	158	TE	So. California
8.	Tate, John	183	LB	Jackson State
9.	Mahoney, Mike	210	WR	Richmond
10.	Mc Clowry, Terry	235	LB	Michigan State
11.	Martin, George	262	DE	Oregon
12.	White, Marsh	287	RB	Arkansas
13.	Townsend, Ricky	314	K	Tennessee
15.	O'Connor, Jim	366	RB	Drake
16.	Micklos, Jim	391	TE	Ball State
17.	Colbert, Rondy	417	DB	Lamar

COACHES:
BILL ARNSPARGER, Floyd Peters, Ted Plumb, Ed Rutledge, Marty Schottenheimer, John Symank, Allan Webb, Ray Wietecha.

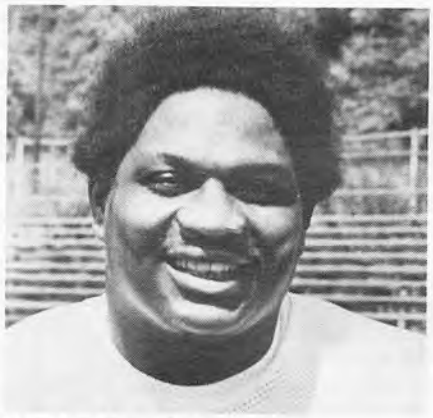
NEW YORK GIANTS

NFL) and permitted opponents to complete 59 percent of their passes. Athas, at left corner, and Spider Lockhart, one of the league's best free safeties who led the secondary in tackles, may be the only regulars who'll retain their jobs. Henry Stuckey, acquired from Miami, will contend for one of the corner jobs, probably the right side where ex-Brown Jim Stienke started in '74. Leading rookie candidate is All-American Robert Giblin of Houston, who'll be tried at both safety positions. But he'll face a battle from Lockhart, an 11-year vet, and Clyde Powers, who showed progress as a rookie strong safety starter. Other prospects include Bobby Brooks, Eldridge Small, Honor Jackson and Chuck Crist.

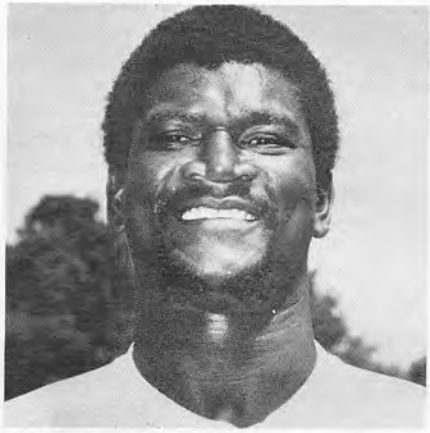
Special teams—Another area that needs improvement. Placekicker Pete Gogolak made only 10 of 19 field goals while punter Dave Jennings had a 39.8 average but had two punts blocked. Competition will come from ex-Patriot Jeff White and barefooted placekicker Rick Townsend, a rookie from Tennessee. The Giants didn't have a punt runner among top 10 in NFC but kickoff runner McQuay was No. 3 with a 27.6 yard average. Some rookies will get a chance to make the team as kick-return specialists.



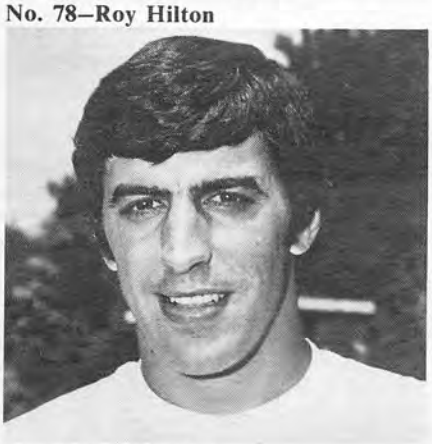
No. 30—Ron Johnson



No. 74—John Hicks



No. 78—Roy Hilton



No. 38—Bob Tucker

1974 Season Results

N.Y. GIANTS (2-12-0)

10		*Washington	13
20		*New England	28
14		Dallas	6
7		*Atlanta	14
7		Philadelphia	35
3		Washington	24
7		*Dallas	21
33		Kansas City	27
20		*N.Y. Jets	26
19		Detroit	20
21		*St. Louis	23
13		Chicago	16
7		*Philadelphia	20
14		St. Louis	26

* DENOTES HOME GAME

"DON'T OVERLOOK THE GIANTS"

The second year of a head coach's NFL career often is most significant. In 1975, Bill Arnsparger of the Giants will be in his second year, with nowhere to go but forward and upward. He hopes to emulate the improvement curve of the great Vince Lombardi, who inherited a very weak Green Bay team, brought home a 7-5 third place finisher (tied) in his first year (1959), then in his second season led the Pack to a division title.

Since then, the second year has been one of considerable improvement for George Allen (from 8-6-0 to 11-1-2 with the Rams), Chuck Fairbanks (from 5-9-0 to an injury-ridden, brutally scheduled 7-7-0 second year at New England), Bud Grant (from 3-8-3 to 8-6-0 at Minnesota), Chuck Noll (from 1-13-0 to 5-9-0, en route to a world title at Pittsburgh), John Ralston (from 5-9-0 to 7-5-2 at Denver) Don Shula (from 8-6-0 to 12-2-0 at Baltimore) and Don Coryell (from 4-9-1 to a 10-4-0 division title at St. Louis).

Coryell's performance, not out of context at all in the above paragraph, nevertheless was the stumbling block with PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL readers who tried to predict in advance the outcome of the 1974 NFL season. In a barrel of predictions, none could name the eight teams to make the 1974 NFL playoffs. In fact, in the several years we have encouraged readers to submit their prognostications, not one has named the eight playoff teams in advance.

In 1974, several readers correctly named seven of the eight. However, some did so only by submitting more than one "ballot." Of the legitimate, one-to-a-family guesses received, only three correctly named seven, and all three of these missed on Coryell's St. Louis Cardinals.

The "seven-pickers" were Rick deKampert of Dothan, Alabama, who selected Dallas; John Beer of Middleton, Wisconsin, who also picked Dallas, and a reader at 6547 Cedarwood Ct., Falls Church, Virginia (his name did not appear anywhere on the letter), who named Atlanta.

This book is not in the contest business, but we make this offer for the fifth year: If you can name the eight teams to make the NFL playoffs, and if we can have your prediction in our hands by September 20, 1975, we'll print your name in our 1976 PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL. But please send us just *one* prediction to a family. To flood us with slightly altered predictions in the same handwriting or from the same address is not in the spirit of the challenge.

Our own resident experts, Vin DiTrani (AFC) and Mal Florence (NFC), find each year that it is difficult to pick four out of four. DiTrani hit the perfecto in 1973, and each has gone the 3 for 4 route, but it's no breeze.

Before you register your own picks, check Vin and Mal on the following pages.

"PUT YOUR NAME HERE"

NFL PREDICTIONS

BY VIN DI TRANI

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

As we complete the first decade of championship extravaganzas we call "Super Bowls," it's interesting to note the similarities of the two teams which have managed to win the big one twice. Both the Green Bay Packers of the mid-60s and the Miami Dolphins of the early-70s relied upon defense to control the game. There is no doubt defense was the key to both clubs.

Offensively, both teams used a ball control, ground-oriented attack run by a quarterback who, while not the greatest pure passer in the world, knew when to mix in an aerial or two to keep everybody honest. Both squads were well drilled by coaches who rank at the top. And each team was capable in the three phases of the game, including special teams.

As we approach the 10th anniversary Super Bowl game, it is interesting to compare the team eligible to win it again this time with the two teams that accomplished repeat triumphs. The Pittsburgh Steelers match up to the Packers and Dolphins in all areas, save one.

The Steeler defense indeed may be more overwhelming than either Green Bay's or Miami's. Pittsburgh's running attack, sparked by Franco Harris, rates well against Green Bay and Taylor, and Miami and Csonka. Chuck Noll has accomplished exactly what the late Vince Lombardi and Don Shula did—turned a losing atmosphere into a winning tradition. And the Steelers are well drilled in all aspects, including the special units.

The only place the Steelers may be lacking is quarterback, where Terry Bradshaw doesn't possess the savvy of a Bart Starr or Bob Griese. Yet Bradshaw has more raw talent, and coming down the stretch last year began harnessing that potential talent to the best results.

If Bradshaw continues his improvement, the Steelers should win again in 1976. The feeling here is Bradshaw will get better.

Pittsburgh, with a relatively easy schedule (see page 132), shouldn't have too much trouble recapturing the AFC Central crown. Cincinnati, with key players back from injuries, should challenge for the wild card spot down to the last weekend.

Houston, after its sensational '74 showing, will level off at or around the .500 mark and come in third, ahead of Cleveland, in the first stages of its rebuilding program.

Meanwhile, in the East, Miami's dominance will end under the onslaught of a determined Buffalo team, anxious to make O.J. a winner. The Bills, with a stronger defense, will win the title by a game or two, with the Dolphins, in a mini-rebuilding period of their own, another wild card aspirant down to the last minute.

The Jets and Patriots will sneak up on the leaders once again, finishing 4-3, or 3-4 if Joe Namath decides to play anywhere else besides New York. Baltimore has a long way to go before it becomes a force again, so the Colts appear to be destined to another season in the cellar.

Oakland will continue its tremedous regular-season pace by capturing the West crown. With their soft schedule, it's conceivable the Raiders may go through the season with as few as one or two losses. Denver will stay close and wind up with the wild card berth on a tie-breaking process.

San Diego could be the surprise team of the year, if it benefits as well as believed from its draft. And Kansas City, like the Browns and Colts, must start the long way back under a new coach by spending the coming year in the basement.

In the playoffs, Pittsburgh will overcome the Raiders once again and Buffalo will outscore Denver. The Steeler defense will prevail in the championship win over the Bills and the Super Bowl triumph over Los Angeles.

DI TRANI'S 1975 PREDICTIONS
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division
First—Buffalo Bills
Second—Miami Dolphins
Third—New York Jets
Fourth—New England Patriots
Fifth—Baltimore Colts

Central Division
First—Pittsburgh Steelers
Second—Cincinnati Bengals
Third—Houston Oilers
Fourth—Cleveland Browns

Western Division
First—Oakland Raiders
Second—Denver Broncos*
Third—San Diego Chargers
Fourth—Kansas City Chiefs
*Wild card for playoffs

AFC Divisional Playoffs
Pittsburgh (24) over Oakland (14)
Buffalo (27) over Denver (20)

AFC Championship Game
Pittsburgh (19) over Buffalo (7)

Super Bowl X
Pittsburgh (16) over Los Angeles (7)

1974 FINAL STANDINGS
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Miami	11	3	0	.786	327	216
Buffalo	9	5	0	.643	264	244
New England	7	7	0	.500	348	289
N.Y. Jets	7	7	0	.500	279	300
Baltimore	2	12	0	.143	190	329

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Pittsburgh	10	3	1	.750	305	189
Cincinnati	7	7	0	.500	283	259
Houston	7	7	0	.500	236	282
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	251	344

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Oakland	12	2	0	.857	355	228
Denver	7	6	1	.536	302	294
Kansas City	5	9	0	.357	233	233
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	212	285

*Buffalo-Wild card for playoffs

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS:
Oakland 28, Miami 26
Pittsburgh 32, Buffalo 14

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:
Pittsburgh 24, Oakland 13

SUPER BOWL IX:
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6

PRO BOWL:
NFC 17, AFC 10

BY MAL FLORENCE

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

The National Football Conference is like an old, established men's club. Nothing much changes. The top teams remain the top teams with few exceptions, such as St. Louis' dramatic improvement in 1974. And the middle class, teams around .500, generally stay in place as well as the have-nots. We foresee no dramatic change this season.

In the East, the Dallas Cowboys, who failed to make the playoffs in 1974 for the first time in nine years, will be a member in good standing among the NFC elite again. Just say the Cowboys took a leave of absence in '74. The Cowboys lost some close games that probably won't go against them this year and Tom Landry has young, maturing talent.

You just can't keep the Washington Redskins out of the playoff picture. George Allen will get there someway with his tough "Over-the-Hill" gang that really isn't over-the-hill.

The Cardinals? They'll be a winner again but won't surprise as many teams with their big-play attack. Anyway, we would like to see if Jim Hart just had a good season, or really deserves to be ranked among the NFL's class quarterbacks.

Easily, the East is the toughest division in the conference. Philadelphia could make waves if offense and defense coordinate with consistent performances. The New York Giants? Later. Much later.

The Vikings rule the Central Division and there's no reason to believe that they won't do it again. Solid club. Sound coach in Bud Grant. Outstanding quarterback in Fran Tarkenton.

The Lions, rebuilding lately, still haven't matured enough seriously to challenge the Vikings and will be bridesmaid again—for the seventh straight season. Good enough to win the division, however, if Minnesota happens to slip.

Chicago and Green Bay are trying to rebound under new coaches, both former NFL stars and knowledgeable men—the Bears' Jack Pardee and Packers' Bart Starr. For new coaches the first year always presents organizational problems. Look for some improvement but no miracles.

In the West, Los Angeles has the easiest schedule and plays in the softest division. Rams would be tough if the reverse were true. So Chuck Knox's team, progressing each season to a Super Bowl assignment, should get there in 1975. It's a strong team that hasn't peaked yet.

San Francisco has some talent but not a proven quarterback. Still, the 49ers should hold off Atlanta and New Orleans.

Figure that the Falcons, with better personnel than last year's dismal 3-11 record indicates, will be better this season. But it will be a learning year for Atlanta's rookie quarterback Steve Bartkowski.

We could be wrong about the Saints, but the New Orleans front office always seems to find a way to disrupt the team when it shows signs of moving up in class. A happy, contented Archie Manning, also a healthy Manning, might make the Saints a contender for second place.

By the playoff format, the wild card team should be contesting the Eastern Division champion. However, since the fourth qualifier, the Redskins, are in the same division as the Cowboys, they'll move on to the West Coast for a repeat opening playoff game against the Rams.

The Cowboys will host the tough Vikings and get by them, barely. The Rams will beat the Redskins more easily than they did last season (19-10).

This sets up a conference championship game in Los Angeles between the Cowboys and the Rams. These teams play entertaining games when matched against one another and will do so again.

Tab the Rams in a wild one, 35-30.

Thus, the Rams will meet defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh in the NFL title game but will make just enough mistakes to lose a close one, say, 17-13.

The Rams are programmed—by their step-by-step playoff progress—to win Super XI at the Rose Bowl in 1977.

FLORENCE'S 1975 PREDICTIONS
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division
First—Dallas Cowboys
Second—Washington Redskins*
Third—St. Louis Cardinals
Fourth—Philadelphia Eagles
Fifth—New York Giants

Central Division
First—Minnesota Vikings
Second—Detroit Lions
Third—Green Bay Packers
Fourth—Chicago Bears

Western Division
First—Los Angeles Rams
Second—San Francisco 49ers
Third—Atlanta Falcons
Fourth—New Orleans Saints
* Wild card for playoffs

NFC Divisional Playoffs
Los Angeles over Washington
Dallas over Minnesota

NFC Championship Game
Los Angeles (35) over Dallas (30)

Super Bowl X
Pittsburgh (17) over Los Angeles (13)

1974 FINAL STANDINGS
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
St. Louis	10	4	0	.714	285	218
Washington	10	4	0	.714	320	196
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	297	235
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	242	217
N.Y. Giants	2	12	0	.143	195	299

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	10	4	0	.714	310	195
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	256	270
Green Bay	6	8	0	.429	210	206
Chicago	4	10	0	.286	152	279

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Los Angeles	10	4	0	.714	263	181
San Francisco	6	8	0	.429	226	236
New Orleans	5	9	0	.357	166	263
Atlanta	3	11	0	.214	111	271

*Washington—Wild card for playoffs

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS:
Minnesota 30, St. Louis 14
Los Angeles 19, Washington 10

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:
Minnesota 14, Los Angeles 10

SUPER BOWL IX:
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6

PRO BOWL:
NFC 17, AFC 10

"CONSULT THE CHART FIRST"

In attempting fearlessly to predict the ultimate standings in any NFL season, and to depend on the crystal ball in advance of actual pre-season play, one should take into consideration as many known elements as possible. One such set of facts is the relative strength of the scheduled opposition, which can be factually measured by the opposition's last known track record. Thus, our easy/tough schedule charts, in which we not only show you what last year's scheduled opponents did last year, we also show you what this year's scheduled opponents did last year.

In 1974, champion Pittsburgh had the easiest schedule in the NFL in two of three easy/tough categories. The Steelers' collective opposition had the league's worst total won-lost record of any team's collective opposition. Also, the Steelers played only one game (Oakland) in '74 against any of the other seven teams to make the '74 playoffs.

Atlanta played the fewest games (six) against the 16 teams which ended the season with a .500 or better won/lost percentage.

On the tough side, Cleveland and Kansas City opponents played at a .579 winning pace—best of the 26 collective opponent marks. New England was forced to play eight games against '74 playoff teams, while Baltimore and Cleveland each played 12 games against teams which ended at .500 or better.

In 1975, the Los Angeles Rams have a lock on the advance easy schedule title. The Rams' 1975 opponents played at only a .395 pace in 1974. The Rams are the only team in '75 to play just one team which made the '74 playoffs (Pittsburgh), and the Rams likewise will meet only four teams which played at .500 or better last year.

At the other end of the pendulum, the Jets must play seven games against '74 playoff teams, while the Bills, Browns and Chargers each must play 11 games against teams with .500 or better '74 marks. Atlanta's collective opposition has the most imposing record of any team's '75 opposition.

Biggest drop from the first chart to the second: The Jets. The biggest climb: The Saints.

THE NFL'S EASY/TOUGH 1974 SCHEDULE, RATED BY THE TOTAL 1974 WON/LOST MARKS OF EACH TEAM'S 1974 OPPONENTS:

TEAM	OPP. WON	OPP. LOST	OPP. TIED	PCT.	A	B
1. PITTSBURGH	84	111	1	.431	1	8
2. MIAMI	85	111	0	.434	3	8
3. MINNESOTA	89	107	0	.454	2	7
4. ST. LOUIS	91	105	0	.464	3	8
5. NEW YORK JETS	91	105	0	.464	5	8
6. LOS ANGELES	91	104	1	.467	3	7
7. CHICAGO	93	103	0	.474	4	7
8. OAKLAND	92	101	3	.477	2	8
9. SAN FRANCISCO	94	102	0	.480	4	7
10. GREEN BAY	94	102	0	.480	5	8
11. ATLANTA	95	100	1	.487	5	6
12. PHILADELPHIA	95	100	1	.487	5	8
13. DETROIT	96	99	1	.492	4	7
14. BUFFALO	97	99	0	.495	4	9
15. DENVER	99	96	1	.508	5	7
16. WASHINGTON	99	96	1	.508	4	10
17. DALLAS	100	96	0	.510	6	9
18. CINCINNATI	100	94	2	.515	5	8
19. SAN DIEGO	101	93	2	.520	3	9
20. NEW YORK GIANTS	103	93	0	.526	4	11
21. HOUSTON	103	90	3	.533	5	10
22. NEW ORLEANS	104	90	2	.536	6	9
23. NEW ENGLAND	106	89	1	.543	8	10
24. BALTIMORE	108	86	2	.556	5	12
25. CLEVELAND	112	81	3	.579	5	12
26. KANSAS CITY	112	81	3	.579	6	11

A–Games played during the 1974 season against teams which made the 1974 playoffs.

B–Games played during the 1974 season against teams with a .500 won/lost percentage or better in 1974.

THE NFL'S EASY/TOUGH 1975 SCHEDULE, RATED BY THE TOTAL 1974 WON/LOST MARKS OF EACH TEAM'S 1975 OPPONENTS

TEAM	OPP. WON	OPP. LOST	OPP. TIED	PCT.	A	B
1. LOS ANGELES	77	118	1	.395	1	4
2. MINNESOTA	83	113	0	.423	2	5
3. OAKLAND	83	111	2	.429	2	6
4. SAN FRANCISCO	85	111	0	.434	3	7
5. PITTSBURGH	89	106	1	.457	2	8
6. ST. LOUIS	91	105	0	.464	3	10
7. DETROIT	93	103	0	.474	4	6
8. NEW ORLEANS	93	103	0	.474	5	6
9. MIAMI	93	102	1	.477	3	10
10. WASHINGTON	95	101	0	.485	4	9
11. CINCINNATI	97	96	3	.503	4	9
12. GREEN BAY	98	96	2	.505	5	9
13. DALLAS	100	96	0	.510	5	10
14. KANSAS CITY	99	94	3	.513	3	9
15. NEW ENGLAND	101	95	0	.515	5	10
16. BUFFALO	100	94	2	.515	5	11
17. DENVER	101	94	1	.518	5	7
18. NEW YORK GIANTS	103	93	0	.526	5	9
19. BALTIMORE	105	91	0	.536	6	10
20. PHILADELPHIA	105	90	1	.538	6	10
21. HOUSTON	105	89	2	.541	5	9
22. NEW YORK JETS	106	89	1	.543	7	10
23. CHICAGO	107	88	1	.548	6	9
24. CLEVELAND	106	87	3	.548	5	11
25. SAN DIEGO	108	85	3	.559	5	11
26. ATLANTA	111	84	1	.569	6	9

A–Games scheduled for the 1975 season against teams which made the 1974 playoffs.

B–Games scheduled for the 1975 season against teams with a .500 won/lost percentage or better in 1974.

"ODDS FAVOR THE RAMS"

PHOTO BY JOHN E. BIEVER

1975 NFL SCHEDULES

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

(All times local. All games Sunday unless noted otherwise.)

BALTIMORE COLTS

Sept. 21	at Chicago	1:00
Sept. 28	OAKLAND	2:00
Oct. 5	at Los Angeles	1:00
Oct. 12	BUFFALO	2:00
Oct. 19	at New England	1:00
Oct. 26	at New York Jets	1:00
Nov. 2	CLEVELAND	2:00
Nov. 9	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 16	NEW YORK JETS	2:00
Nov. 23	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 30	KANSAS CITY	2:00
Dec. 7	at New York Giants	1:00
Dec. 14	MIAMI	2:00
Dec. 21	NEW ENGLAND	2:00

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 21	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Sept. 28	at Pittsburgh	4:00
Oct. 5	DENVER	1:00
Oct. 12	at Baltimore	2:00
Oct. 20	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 26	MIAMI	4:00
Nov. 2	at New York Jets	1:00
Nov. 9	BALTIMORE	1:00
Nov. 17	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 23	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 27	at St. Louis (Thanks.)	2:30
Dec. 7	at Miami	4:00
Dec. 14	at New England	1:00
Dec. 20	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	12:30

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 21	CLEVELAND	1:00
Sept. 28	at New Orleans	1:00
Oct. 5	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 12	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 19	OAKLAND	4:00
Oct. 26	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 2	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 9	at Denver	2:00
Nov. 17	BUFFALO (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 23	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 30	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 7	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 13	at Pittsburgh (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 21	SAN DIEGO	1:00

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 21	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept. 28	MINNESOTA	1:00
Oct. 5	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct. 12	HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 19	at Denver	2:00
Oct. 26	WASHINGTON	1:00
Nov. 2	at Baltimore	2:00
Nov. 9	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 16	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 23	CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 30	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 7	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 14	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Dec. 21	at Houston	1:00

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 21	KANSAS CITY	2:00
Sept. 29	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	7:00
Oct. 5	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 12	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 19	CLEVELAND	2:00
Oct. 26	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 2	OAKLAND	2:00
Nov. 9	CINCINNATI	2:00
Nov. 16	at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 23	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 30	SAN DIEGO	2:00
Dec. 8	at Oakland (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 14	PHILADELPHIA	2:00
Dec. 20	at Miami (Sat.)	3:30

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 21	at New England	1:00
Sept. 28	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct. 5	CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct. 12	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 19	WASHINGTON	1:00
Oct. 26	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 2	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 16	MIAMI	1:00
Nov. 24	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 30	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 7	at San Francisco	1:00
Dec. 14	at Oakland	1:00
Dec. 21	CLEVELAND	1:00

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

SEPT. 21	at Denver	2:00
Sept. 28	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Oct. 5	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 12	at Oakland	1:00
Oct. 19	at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 26	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 2	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 10	at Dallas (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 16	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 23	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 30	at Baltimore	2:00
Dec. 7	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Dec. 14	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 21	OAKLAND	3:00

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 22	OAKLAND (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 28	at New England	1:00
Oct. 5	at Green Bay	1:00
Oct. 12	PHILADELPHIA	4:00
Oct. 19	at New York Jets	1:00
Oct. 26	at Buffalo	4:00
Nov. 2	at Chicago	1:00
Nov. 9	NEW YORK JETS	4:00
Nov. 16	at Houston	1:00
Nov. 23	BALTIMORE	1:00
Dec. 1	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 7	BUFFALO	4:00
Dec. 14	at Baltimore	2:00
Dec. 20	DENVER (Sat.)	3:30

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 21	HOUSTON	1:00
Sept. 28	MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 5	at New York Jets	1:00
Oct. 12	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 19	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 26	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 2	at St. Louis	1:00
Nov. 9	at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 16	DALLAS	1:00
Nov. 23	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 1	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 7	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Dec. 14	BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 21	at Baltimore	2:00

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 21	at Buffalo	1:00
Sept. 28	at Kansas City	1:00
Oct. 5	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 12	at Minnesota	1:00
Oct. 19	MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 26	BALTIMORE	1:00
Nov. 2	BUFFALO	1:00
Nov. 9	at Miami	4:00
Nov. 16	at Baltimore	2:00
Nov. 23	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Nov. 30	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec. 7	at New England	1:00
Dec. 15	at San Diego (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 21	DALLAS	1:00

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 22	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 28	at Baltimore	2:00
Oct. 5	at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 12	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati	4:00
Oct. 26	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov. 2	at Denver	2:00
Nov. 9	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 16	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 23	at Washington	4:00
Nov. 30	ATLANTA	1:00
Dec. 8	DENVER (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 14	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 21	at Kansas City	3:00

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 21	at San Diego	1:00
Sept. 28	BUFFALO	4:00
Oct. 5	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 12	DENVER	1:00
Oct. 19	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 26	at Green Bay	1:00
Nov. 2	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 9	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 16	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 24	at Houston (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 30	at New York Jets	1:00
Dec. 7	CLEVELAND	1:00
Dec. 13	CINCINNATI (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 20	at Los Angeles (Sat.)	6:00

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 21	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sept. 28	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 5	OAKLAND	1:00
Oct. 12	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Oct. 19	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Oct. 26	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 1	at New York Giants (Sat)	1:00
Nov. 9	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 16	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 23	at Minnesota	1:00
Nov. 30	at Denver	2:00
Dec. 7	at Kansas City	1:00
Dec. 15	NEW YORK JETS (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 21	at Cincinnati	1:00

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

(All times local. All games Sunday unless noted otherwise.)

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 21	at St. Louis	1:00
Sept. 28	DETROIT	1:00
Oct. 5	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 12	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 19	at Los Angeles	1:00
Oct. 26	CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 2	at New Orleans	1:00
Nov. 9	at Minnesota	1:00
Nov. 16	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Nov. 23	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 30	at Oakland	1:00
Dec. 7	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 21	at Green Bay	1:00

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 21	BALTIMORE	1:00
Sept. 28	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct. 5	at Minnesota	1:00
Oct. 12	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 19	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 27	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 2	MIAMI	1:00
Nov. 9	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 16	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 23	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 30	at Green Bay	1:00
Dec. 7	DETROIT	1:00
Dec. 14	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Dec. 21	at New Orleans	1:00

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 21	LOS ANGELES	3:00
Sept. 28	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Oct. 6	at Detroit (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 12	at New York Giants	1:00
Oct. 19	GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct. 26	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 2	at Washington	4:00
Nov. 10	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 16	at New England	1:00
Nov. 23	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 30	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 7	at St. Louis	1:00
Dec. 13	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	2:30
Dec. 21	at New York Jets	1:00

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 21	at Green Bay	1:00
Sept. 28	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 6	DALLAS (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 12	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 19	at Minnesota	3:00
Oct. 26	at Houston	1:00
Nov. 2	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 9	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 16	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 23	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 27	LOS ANGELES (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 7	at Chicago	1:00
Dec. 14	MINNESOTA	4:00
Dec. 21	ST. LOUIS	1:00

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 21	DETROIT	1:00
Sept. 29	at Denver (Mon.)	7:00
Oct. 5	MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 12	at New Orleans	1:00
Oct. 19	at Dallas	1:00
Oct. 26	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov. 9	at Chicago	1:00
Nov. 16	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 23	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Nov. 30	CHICAGO	1:00
Dec. 7	at Minnesota	1:00
Dec. 14	at Los Angeles	1:00
Dec. 21	ATLANTA	1:00

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 21	at Dallas	3:00
Sept. 28	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 5	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 12	at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 19	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 26	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 3	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 9	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 16	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 23	CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 27	at Detroit (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 7	at New Orleans	1:00
Dec. 14	GREEN BAY	1:00
Dec. 20	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	6:00

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 21	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Sept. 28	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 5	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 12	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Oct. 19	DETROIT	3:00
Oct. 27	at Chicago (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 2	at Green Bay	1:00
Nov. 9	ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 16	at New Orleans	1:00
Nov. 23	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov. 30	at Washington	4:00
Dec. 7	GREEN BAY	1:00
Dec. 14	at Detroit	4:00
Dec. 20	at Buffalo (Sat.)	12:30

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 21	at Washington	1:00
Sept. 28	CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct. 5	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 12	GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct. 19	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 26	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 2	ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 9	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 16	MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov. 23	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 30	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 7	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Dec. 14	at New York Giants	1:00
Dec. 21	CHICAGO	1:00

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 21	at Philadelphia	1:00
Sept. 28	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 5	at St. Louis	1:00
Oct. 12	DALLAS	1:00
Oct. 20	at Buffalo (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 25	ST. LOUIS (Sat.)	1:00
Nov. 1	SAN DIEGO (Sat.)	1:00
Nov. 9	WASHINGTON	1:00
Nov. 16	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 23	at Green Bay	1:00
Nov. 30	at Dallas	1:00
Dec. 7	BALTIMORE	1:00
Dec. 14	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 21	at San Francisco	1:00

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 21	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Sept. 28	at Chicago	1:00
Oct. 5	WASHINGTON	4:00
Oct. 12	at Miami	4:00
Oct. 19	at St. Louis	1:00
Oct. 26	DALLAS	1:00
Nov. 3	LOS ANGELES (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 9	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Nov. 16	at New York Giants	1:00
Nov. 23	at Dallas	1:00
Nov. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 7	CINCINNATI	1:00
Dec. 14	at Denver	2:00
Dec. 21	at Washington	1:00

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Sept. 21	ATLANTA	1:00
Sept. 28	at Dallas	1:00
Oct. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Oct. 13	at Washington (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 19	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct. 25	at New York Giants (Sat)	1:00
Nov. 2	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 9	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 16	WASHINGTON	3:00
Nov. 23	at New York Jets	1:00
Nov. 27	BUFFALO (Thanks.)	2:30
Dec. 7	DALLAS	1:00
Dec. 14	at Chicago	1:00
Dec. 21	at Detroit	1:00

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 21	at Minnesota	1:00
Sept. 28	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Oct. 5	at Kansas City	1:00
Oct. 12	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 19	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 26	at New England	1:00
Nov. 2	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 9	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 16	CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 23	at New Orleans	1:00
Nov. 30	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec. 7	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 14	at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 21	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 21	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Sept. 28	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia	4:00
Oct. 13	ST. LOUIS (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 19	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 26	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 2	DALLAS	4:00
Nov. 9	at New York Giants	1:00
Nov. 16	at St. Louis	3:00
Nov. 23	OAKLAND	4:00
Nov. 30	MINNESOTA	4:00
Dec. 7	at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 13	at Dallas (Sat.)	2:30
Dec. 21	PHILADELPHIA	1:00

REGULAR SEASON 1975

(All times local)

FIRST WEEKEND—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Atlanta at St. Louis....1:00
Baltimore at Chicago....1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati....1:00
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee....1:00
Houston at New England....1:00
Kansas City at Denver....2:00
Los Angeles at Dallas....3:00
New Orleans at Washington....1:00
New York Giants at Philadelphia....1:00
New York Jets at Buffalo....1:00
Pittsburgh at San Diego....1:00
San Francisco at Minnesota....1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Oakland at Miami....9:00

SECOND WEEKEND—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Buffalo at Pittsburgh....4:00
Cincinnati at New Orleans....1:00
Detroit at Atlanta....1:00
Los Angeles at San Francisco....1:00
Miami at New England....1:00
Minnesota at Cleveland....1:00
New York Giants at Washington....1:00
New York Jets at Kansas City....1:00
Oakland at Baltimore....2:00
Philadelphia at Chicago....1:00
St. Louis at Dallas....1:00
San Diego at Houston....1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Green Bay at Denver....7:00

THIRD WEEKEND—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Baltimore at Los Angeles....1:00
Chicago at Minnesota....1:00
Cincinnati at Houston....1:00
Denver at Buffalo....1:00
Miami at Green Bay....1:00
New Orleans at Atlanta....1:00
New England at New York Jets....1:00
New York Giants at St. Louis....1:00
Oakland at San Diego....1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland....1:00
San Francisco at Kansas City....1:00
Washington at Philadelphia....4:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Dallas at Detroit....9:00

FOURTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Atlanta at San Francisco....1:00
Buffalo at Baltimore....2:00
Chicago at Detroit....1:00
Dallas at New York Giants....1:00
Denver at Pittsburgh....1:00
Green Bay at New Orleans....1:00
Houston at Cleveland....1:00
Kansas City at Oakland....1:00
Los Angeles at San Diego....1:00
New England at Cincinnati....1:00
New York Jets at Minnesota....1:00
Philadelphia at Miami....4:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

St. Louis at Washington....9:00

FIFTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Atlanta at Los Angeles....1:00
Baltimore at New England....1:00
Chicago at Pittsburgh....1:00
Cleveland at Denver....2:00
Detroit at Minnesota....3:00
Green Bay at Dallas....1:00
Kansas City at San Diego....1:00
Miami at New York Jets....1:00
New Orleans at San Francisco....1:00
Oakland at Cincinnati....4:00
Philadelphia at St. Louis....1:00
Washington at Houston....1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

New York Giants at Buffalo....9:00

SIXTH WEEKEND—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

St. Louis at New York Giants....1:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Baltimore at New York Jets....1:00
Cincinnati at Atlanta....1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia....1:00
Denver at Kansas City....1:00
Detroit at Houston....1:00
Miami at Buffalo....4:00
New Orleans at Los Angeles....1:00
Pittsburgh vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee....1:00
San Diego at Oakland....1:00
San Francisco at New England....1:00
Washington at Cleveland....1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Minnesota at Chicago....8:00

SEVENTH WEEKEND—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

San Diego at New York Giants....1:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Atlanta at New Orleans....1:00
Buffalo at New York Jets....1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore....2:00
Dallas at Washington....4:00
Detroit at San Francisco....1:00
Houston at Kansas City....1:00
Miami at Chicago....1:00
Minnesota at Green Bay....12:00
New England at St. Louis....1:00
Oakland at Denver....2:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati....1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Los Angeles at Philadelphia....9:00

EIGHTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Atlanta at Minnesota....1:00
Baltimore at Buffalo....1:00
Cincinnati at Denver....2:00
Cleveland at Detroit....1:00
Green Bay at Chicago....1:00
Houston at Pittsburgh....1:00
New England at San Diego....1:00
New Orleans at Oakland....1:00
New York Jets at Miami....4:00
St. Louis at Philadelphia....1:00
San Francisco at Los Angeles....1:00
Washington at New York Giants....1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Kansas City at Dallas....8:00

NINTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Chicago at San Francisco....1:00
Cleveland at Oakland....1:00
Dallas at New England....1:00
Denver at San Diego....1:00
Green Bay at Detroit....1:00
Kansas City at Pittsburgh....1:00
Los Angeles at Atlanta....1:00
Miami at Houston....1:00
Miami at Houston....1:00
Minnesota at New Orleans....1:00
New York Jets at Baltimore....2:00
Philadelphia at New York Giants....1:00
Washington at St. Louis....3:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Buffalo at Cincinnati....9:00

TENTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Baltimore at Miami....1:00
Chicago at Los Angeles....1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland....1:00
Denver at Atlanta....1:00
Detroit at Kansas City....1:00
New England at Buffalo....1:00
N.Y. Giants vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee....1:00
Oakland at Washington....4:00
Philadelphia at Dallas....1:00
St. Louis at New York Jets....1:00
San Diego at Minnesota....1:00
San Francisco at New Orleans....1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Pittsburgh at Houston....8:00

ELEVENTH WEEKEND—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 (Thanksgiving Day)

Los Angeles at Detroit....12:30
Buffalo at St. Louis....2:30

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Atlanta at Oakland....1:00
Chicago at Green Bay....1:00
Houston at Cincinnati....1:00
Kansas City at Baltimore....2:00
Minnesota at Washington....4:00
New Orleans at Cleveland....1:00
New York Giants at Dallas....1:00
Pittsburgh at New York Jets....1:00
San Diego at Denver....2:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia....1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

New England at Miami....9:00

TWELFTH WEEKEND—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Baltimore at New York Giants....1:00
Buffalo at Miami....4:00
Cincinnati at Philadelphia....1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh....1:00
Dallas at St. Louis....1:00
Detroit at Chicago....1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota....1:00
Houston at San Francisco....1:00
Los Angeles at New Orleans....1:00
New York Jets at New England....1:00
San Diego at Kansas City....1:00
Washington at Atlanta....1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Denver at Oakland....6:00

THIRTEENTH WEEKEND—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh....12:30
Washington at Dallas....2:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Buffalo at New England....1:00
Green Bay at Los Angeles....1:00
Houston at Oakland....1:00
Kansas City at Cleveland....1:00
Miami at Baltimore....2:00

REGULAR SEASON 1975

Minnesota at Detroit....4:00
New Orleans at New York Giants....1:00
Philadelphia at Denver....2:00
St. Louis at Chicago....1:00
San Francisco at Atlanta....1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
New York Jets at San Diego....6:00

FOURTEENTH WEEKEND—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
Minnesota at Buffalo....12:30
Denver at Miami....3:30
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles....6:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
Atlanta at Green Bay....1:00
Chicago at New Orleans....1:00
Cleveland at Houston....1:00
Dallas at New York Jets....1:00
New England at Baltimore....2:00
New York Giants at San Francisco....1:00
Oakland at Kansas City....3:00
Philadelphia at Washington....1:00
St. Louis at Detroit....1:00
San Diego at Cincinnati....1:00

INTER-CONFERENCE GAMES

(Sunday unless noted; all times local)

Sept. 21—Baltimore at Chicago....1 p.m.
Sept. 28—Cincinnati at New Orleans....1 p.m.
Minnesota at Cleveland....1 p.m.
Sept. 29—(Monday) Green Bay at Denver....7 p.m.
Oct. 5—Baltimore at Los Angeles....1 p.m.
Miami at Green Bay....1 p.m.
San Francisco at Kansas City....1 p.m.
Oct. 12—Los Angeles at San Diego....1 p.m.
New York Jets at Minnesota....1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami....4 p.m.
Oct. 19—Chicago at Pittsburgh....1 p.m.
Washington at Houston....1 p.m.
Oct. 20—(Monday) New York Giants at Buffalo....9 p.m.
Oct. 26—Cincinnati at Atlanta....1 p.m.
Detroit at Houston....1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Green Bay....1 p.m.
San Francisco at New England....1 p.m.
Washington at Cleveland....1 p.m.
Nov. 1—San Diego at New York Giants....1 p.m.
Nov. 2—Miami at Chicago....1 p.m.
New England at St. Louis....1 p.m.
Nov. 9—Cleveland at Detroit....1 p.m.
New Orleans at Oakland....1 p.m.
Nov. 10—(Monday) Kansas City at Dallas....8 p.m.
Nov. 16—Dallas at New England....1 p.m.
Nov. 23—Denver at Atlanta....1 p.m.
Detroit at Kansas City....1 p.m.
Oakland at Washington....4 p.m.
San Diego at Minnesota....1 p.m.
St. Louis at New York Jets....1 p.m.
Nov. 27—(Thanksgiving) Buffalo at St. Louis....2:30 p.m.
Nov. 30—Atlanta at Oakland....1 p.m.
New Orleans at Cleveland....1 p.m.
Dec. 7—Baltimore at New York Giants....1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Philadelphia....1 p.m.
Houston at San Francisco....1 p.m.
Dec. 14—Phildelphia at Denver....2 p.m.
Dec. 20—(Saturday) Minnesota at Buffalo....12:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles....6 p.m.
Dec. 21—Dallas at New York Jets....1 p.m.

NETWORK TV GAMES

POSTSEASON GAMES

Saturday, Dec. 27....AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, Dec. 28....AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 4, 1976....AFC Championship Game (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 4, 1976....NFC Championship Game (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 18, 1976....Super Bowl X at Miami (CBS)
Monday, Jan. 26, 1976....AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at New Orleans (night, ABC)

MONDAY GAMES AT A GLANCE

Sept. 22—Oakland at Miami....9:00 P.M.
Sept. 29—Green Bay at Denver....7:00 P.M.
Oct. 6—Dallas at Detroit....9:00 P.M.
Oct. 13—St. Louis at Washington....9:00 P.M.
Oct. 20—New York Giants at Buffalo....9:00 P.M.
Oct. 27—Minnesota at Chicago....8:00 P.M.
Nov. 3—Los Angeles at Philadelphia....9:00 P.M.
Nov. 10—Kansas City at Dallas....8:00 P.M.
Nov. 17—Buffalo at Cincinnati....9:00 P.M.
Nov. 24—Pittsburgh at Houston....8:00 P.M.
Dec. 1—New England at Miami....9:00 P.M.
Dec. 8—Denver at Oakland....6:00 P.M.
Dec. 15—New York Jets at San Diego....6:00 P.M.

NATIONALLY TELEVISED GAMES

REGULAR SEASON

Monday, Sept. 22....Oakland at Miami (night, ABC)
Monday, Sept. 29....Green Bay at Denver (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 6....Dallas at Detroit (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 13....St. Louis at Washington (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 20....New York Giants at Buffalo (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 27....Minnesota at Chicago (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 3....Los Angeles at Philadelphia (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 10....Kansas City at Dallas (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 17....Buffalo at Cincinnati (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 24....Pittsburgh at Houston (night, ABC)
Thursday, Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving)....Los Angeles at Detroit (day, CBS)
Buffalo at St. Louis (day, NBC)
Monday, Dec. 1....New England at Miami (night, ABC)
Monday, Dec. 8....Denver at Oakland (night, ABC)
Saturday, Dec. 13....Cincinnati at Pittsburgh (day, NBC)
Washington at Dallas (day, CBS)
Monday, Dec. 15....New York Jets at San Diego (night, ABC)
Saturday, Dec. 20....Minnesota at Buffalo (day, CBS)
Denver at Miami (day, NBC)
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles (night, ABC)

TV DOUBLEHEADER GAMES

(The following Sunday games are scheduled to be seen in many market areas as part of television doubleheaders):

Sept. 21....Los Angeles at Dallas (CBS)
Sept. 28....Buffalo at Pittsburgh (NBC)
Oct. 5....Washington at Philadelphia (CBS)
Oct. 12....Philadelphia at Miami (CBS)
Oct. 19....Detroit at Minnesota (CBS)
Oakland at Cincinnati (NBC)
Oct. 26....Miami at Buffalo (NBC)
Nov. 2....Dallas at Washington (CBS)
Nov. 9....New York Jets at Miami (NBC)
Nov. 16....Washington at St. Louis (CBS)
Nov. 23....Oakland at Washington (NBC)
Nov. 30....Minnesota at Washington (CBS)
Dec. 7....Buffalo at Miami (NBC)
Dec. 14....Minnesota at Detroit (CBS)
Dec. 21....Oakland at Kansas City (NBC)

"IT EVEN DEFIES A COMPUTER"

The scheduling of 182 games in the NFL each year would be a simple task if it were not for the many restrictions to be taken into consideration in selecting the dates. For example:

—The opponents cannot be chosen at random. There's a rotational formula in effect which dictates the list of opponents to appear on each schedule.

—When an opponent appears on a team's schedule, an effort must be made to alternate home and away sites, regardless of whether the time intervening between games is days, weeks or years.

—Many stadia must reserve prior rights for a baseball joint tenant, in the event the baseball team gets into the playoffs and/or world series. Also, in many instances, these prior baseball rights knock football out of the stadium several Sundays in September and early October, even before the baseball playoffs begin.

—It is a policy not to give a team more than three consecutive games at home nor more than three consecutive games on the road during the season. Additionally, no team opens with three games on the road, and, wherever possible, two openers on the road are avoided. (This year, the notable exceptions are Oakland and the two New York teams. Conflicts with baseball, and the facts that both the Jets and Giants are using Shea Stadium, have created several "exceptions" in scheduling.)

—An attempt is made to avoid a string of home day games in blistering Miami in September and a string of home games in icy Green Bay and Minnesota in December.

This year, baseball has created a situation in Oakland which may make for a most unusual problem. Already, the Raiders are forced by baseball to be on the road for their September 22 and 28 NFL games. October 5 is a road game anyway, and on the fourth week (October 12), Kansas City is scheduled to play in Oakland. But if the perennially strong A's should make the world series again, they would be scheduled to host the world series in conflict with the K.C. vs. Raiders game. If the Chiefs @ Raiders game of October 12th is moved to Kansas City, to be swapped with the Raiders @ Chiefs game of December 21, it means that Oakland will be on the road for the first five weeks and at home the last four.

With the Jets and Giants sharing Shea Stadium, along with baseball's Mets, the picture there is crowded, to say the least. In the first four weeks, six Jets-Giants games are on the road as baseball holds sway. Then, in mid-season, when both teams must be at home, the Giants have to take two Saturday afternoon home allocations, one of them just five days after a Monday night road game.

Teams from the AFC's Central Division played a total of only two games on the West Coast in 1974, but in '75, the champion Steelers both open and close the season there, meeting the Chargers and later the Rams.

Thanksgiving Day scheduling always paints an unusual picture. Schedule-makers must provide one visiting team from the AFC and one from the NFC in order to bring about an NBC-CBS Turkey Day doubleheader. This year, each of the four teams involved on that day (the Bills, Cards, Rams and Lions) must travel to get there, and all come off of games the previous Sunday, so none of the four has an advantage over any of the other three. But each of the four has a big advantage over its subsequent opponent, with ten days to prepare, compared to seven.

At least all of the schedule quirks are well known to all the teams months in advance. Pity the referee and his crew. Their schedules, purposely, are made up only days ahead, not months, nor even weeks. This year, ten new names update our 1974 list of 84 officials, comprising 14 crews. There's one for each of the 13 games, and always an alternate crew ready to help in case of illness or injury.

NEW RULES OF PRIORITY IN SELECTING SITES FOR 1975 NFL PLAYOFF GAMES

The NFL has changed its formula for the playoffs, now placing a stronger emphasis on winning all games, even for a team which may clinch its division title early. As before, the four teams which constitute the playoffs in each conference are the three division winners, plus the 4th best finisher, won/lost-wise. (The 4th best finisher popularly is called "the wild card team.")

The new formula:

The two division winners with the highest won/lost percentages will be the home teams for the first playoff round in each conference.

The division winner with the best won/lost record will host the wild card, while the division winner with the second best won/lost mark will host the third division winner.

If the wild card winner is from the same division as the team with the conference's best won/lost mark, then the opponents are switched, since the policy is that the wild card team should not meet the champion of its own division in the first round of the playoffs.

For the conference championship, the surviving division winner with the highest won/lost percentage will be the home team. (In no case will the wild card team be the home team in either the divisional playoff round or the conference championship.)

In case of ties, the established current formula for tie-breaking will prevail.

NOTE: Alternatives in the formula are designed to accommodate the rule that the 4th best finisher is not permitted to host a first round or conference championship game.

"EACH GAME MATCHES THREE TEAMS"

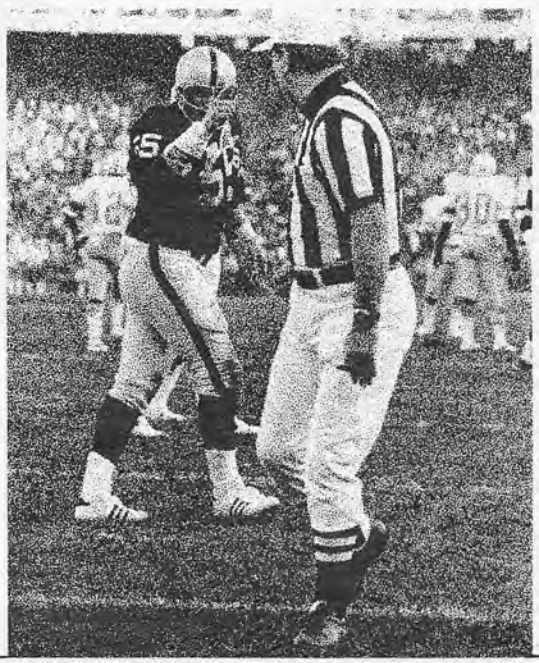
HALL OF FAME PHOTO CONTEST
FIRST PLACE WINNER COLOR FEATURE/MALCOLM EMMONS

ROSTER OF OFFICIALS

ART McNALLY, Supervisor **JACK READER,** Assistant Supervisor **NICK SKORICH,** Assistant Supervisor

No.	Name	College/University	Yr. Pro	Hometown	Pos.*
4	**KINGZETT, Bill** Athletic coordinator	Hiram	1	Lyndhurst, Ohio	FJ
5	**DOUGLAS, Ray** Supervisor & inventory control manager	Univ. of Baltimore	8	Baltimore, Md.	BJ
6	**ULMAN, Bernie** Owner, sporting goods store	Maryland	13	Bel Air, Md.	R
7	**BELL, Tom** Attorney-at-law	Kentucky	14	Lexington, Ky.	R
8	**KLEMMER, Grover** Teacher, dept. chairman, athletic director, San Francisco schools	California	13	San Francisco, Calif.	BJ
10	**SABATO, Al** Director, school food services	Cincinnati	16	Cincinnati, Ohio	HL
11	**JACOB, Vince** Wireman, special apparatus	None	1	Verona, Pa.	LJ
12	**DREITH, Ben** High school teacher	Colorado St. U.	15	Denver, Colo.	R
14	**BARTH, Gene** President, oil company	St. Louis U.	5	Florissant, Mo.	R
15	**MORCROFT, Ralph** General manager, minor league baseball team	Ohio State	15	Hollywood, Fla.	U
16	**CATHCART, Royal** Regional sales manager, medical products company (Former NFL player)	U. of California, Santa Barbara	5	Irvine, Calif.	LJ
17	**BERGMAN, Jerry** Director of county recreation	Duquesne	10	Pittsburgh, Pa.	HL
19	**HENSLEY, Tom** Airport director	Tennessee	9	Knoxville, Tenn.	U
20	**SINKOVITZ, Frank** Safety specialist (Former NFL player)	Duke	18	Hershey, Pa.	U
21	**SWEARINGEN, Fred** Real estate salesman	Ohio U.	16	Carlsbad, Calif.	FJ
22	**TREPINSKI, Paul** Real estate salesman	Toledo	13	Toldeo, Ohio	U
23	**TERZIAN, Armen** Director of physical education, San Francisco schools	So. California	15	San Francisco, Calif.	FJ
24	**ALFORD, Bruce** Owner, building materials company (Former NFL player)	TCU	16	Fort Worth, Tex.	LJ
25	**KELLEHER, Tom** Vice president, marketing division	Holy Cross	16	Miami, Fla.	BJ
26	**MARION, Ed** Manager, pension dept., insurance company	Pennsylvania	16	Portland, Maine	HL
27	**CONWAY, Al** Ass't. vice president, paint and chemical company	Army	7	Kansas City, Mo.	U
28	**WEDGE, Don** General sales manager	Ohio Wesleyan	4	Troy, Ohio	BJ
29	**JAVIE, Stan** Vice president, paint company	Georgetown	25	Philadelphia, Pa.	BJ
30	**MURPHY, George** Industrial consultant	So. California	16	Coronado, Calif.	HL
31	**DOLACK, Dick** Pharmacist	Ferris State	10	Muskegon, Mich.	FJ
32	**TUNNEY, Jim** Principal, Los Angeles schools	Occidental	16	Los Angeles, Calif.	R
33	**HOLST, Art** President-owner, promotivation company, professional speaker	Knox	12	Peoria, Ill.	LJ
34	**GRAF, Fritz** Area manager, medical and hospital equipment company	Western Reserve	16	Akron, Ohio	FJ
35	**MILES, Leo** University athletic director (Former NFL player)	Virginia	7	Washington, D.C.	HL
36	**VETERI, Tony** Special sales representative, distillers company	None	15	Mt. Vernon, N.Y.	HL
37	**TOLER, Burl** Assoc. director of adult and community education	San Francisco	11	San Francisco, Calif.	HL
38	**SWANSON, Bill** Banking vice president in marketing	Lake Forest	12	Chicago, Ill.	LJ
39	**FETTE, Jack** Sales representative, sporting goods company	None	11	Kansas City, Mo.	LJ
40	**HAGGERTY, Pat** Teacher and coach, Denver schools	Colorado State College	11	Denver, Colo.	R
41	**REED, Charles** Recreation director	Whittier	1	Los Angeles, Calif.	BJ
42	**HAMILTON, Dave** Assistant to medical director	Utah	1	Atascadero, Calif.	U

No.	Name	College/University	Yr. Pro	Hometown	Pos.*
43	**CASHION, Red** Chairman of the board, insurance company	Texas A&M	4	Bryan, Tex	LJ
44	**PETERS, Walt** Insurance agent	Indiana State	7	King of Prussia, Pa.	HL
45	**FOUCH, John** Sales manager, distributing company	So. California	10	Redlands, Calif.	BJ
46	**HEBERLING, Chuck** Sales conselor, consumer products company	Washington & Jefferson	11	Pittsburgh, Pa.	R
47	**VANDENBERG, Ralph** Operations manager, consumer goods company	Cincinnati	16	Cincinnati, Ohio	LJ
48	**McCARTER, Gordon** University registrar	Western Reserve	9	Cleveland, Ohio	R
49	**LOOK, Dean** Insurance sales	Michigan State	4	Lansing, Mich.	LJ
50	**KRAMER, Tony** Transportation area sales manager	Dayton	1	Centerville, Ohio	U
51	**PALAZZI, Lou** Landscape architect (Former NFL player)	Penn State	24	Scranton, Pa.	U
52	**TOMPKINS, Ben** Attorney-at-law	Texas	5	Fort Worth, Tex	BJ
53	**REYNOLDS, Bill** High school teacher and coach	West Chester State	1	Springfield, Pa.	LJ
55	**MUSSER, Charley** Sales manager, oil company	North Carolina St.	11	Naperville, Ill.	FJ
56	**SCHACHTER, Norm** Ass't. superintendent, Los Angeles schools	Alfred	22	Los Angeles, Calif.	R
57	**CONNELL, Joe** District sales manager, steel company	Pittsburgh	24	Pittsburgh, Pa.	U
58	**BAUR, Bob** Insurance agent	Ohio U.	13	Athens, Ohio	FJ
59	**BEEKS, Bob** Police community relations officer	Lincoln	8	St. Louis, Mo.	LJ
60	**JORGENSEN, Dick** Bank vice president	Wisconsin	8	Champaign, Ill.	R
61	**STEFFEN, John** Airline director of engineering administration	Minnesota	8	Miami, Fla.	BJ
62	**HART, Gerry** General manager, sales, steel company	Kansas State	8	Pittsburgh, Pa.	U



No.	Name	College/University	Yr. Pro	Hometown	Pos.*
63	**BURK, Adrian** Attorney-at-law (Former NFL player)	Baylor	9	Houston, Tex	BJ
64	**PARRY, Dave** High school athletic director	Wabash	1	Michigan City, Ind.	BJ
65	**KRAGSETH, Norm** Teacher and coach	Northwestern	2	Minneapolis, Minn	HL
66	**HAWK, Dave** Vice president, manufacturing company	SMU	4	Corsicana, Tex	HL
67	**KECK, John** Petroleum distributor	Cornell College	4	Des Moines, Iowa	U
68	**ROSS, Bill** Collegiate assistant professor	Missouri	3	Kansas City, Mo.	HL
70	**SEEMAN, Jerry** Public school administrator	Winona State	1	Fridley, Minn.	LJ
71	**FREDERIC, Bob** Owner, printing and lithographing company	Colorado	8	Denver, Colo	R
72	**LEPORE, Cal** Youth services officer	Alabama	10	Chicago, Ill.	R
73	**KNIGHT, Pat** General manager, lumber company (Former NFL player)	Southern Methodist	3	San Antonio, Tex	BJ
74	**DODEZ, Ray** Telephone company executive	Wooster	8	Columbus, Ohio	HL
75	**WYANT, Fred** Insurance and investment broker	West Virginia	10	Star City, W. Va.	R
76	**MERRIFIELD, Ed** Machinery territorial manager	Missouri	1	Leawood, Kans	FJ
77	**ORR, Don** Executive vice president, machine company	Vanderbilt	5	Nashville, Tenn.	LJ
78	**DEMMAS, Art** General agent, insurance company	Vanderbilt	8	Nashville, Tenn.	U
79	**SONNENBERG, Ray** Executive director, Y.M.C.A.	St. Louis U.	9	St. Louis, Mo.	HL
80	**RICE, Bob** Teacher and coach	Denison	7	Cleveland, Ohio	BJ
81	**SILVA, Fred** Sales manager, consumer sales company	San Jose State	9	San Jose, Calif.	R
82	**MALLETTE, Pat** Vocational director, Blair schools	Nebraska	7	Blair, Neb.	FJ
83	**O'BRIEN, Bill** University department chairman-professor	Indiana	9	Carbondale, Ill.	FJ
84	**WORTMAN, Bob** Owner, insurance agency	Findlay	10	Findlay, Ohio	FJ
85	**GLOVER, Frank** Personnel specialist	Morris Brown	4	Atlanta, Ga.	HL
86	**COLE, Jimmy** Land development	Memphis State	6	Memphis, Tenn.	FJ
87	**FERGUSON, Richard** Assistant commissioner, high school athletics	West Virginia	2	San Jose, Calif.	FJ
88	**HARDER, Pat** Salesman (Former NFL player)	Wisconsin	10	Milwaukee, Wisc.	U
89	**WELLS, Gordon** Teacher, track and cross-country coach	Occidental	4	Huntington Beach, Calif.	U
90	**MACE, Gil** Sales manager	Westminster	2	Library, Pa.	LJ
91	**STANLEY, Bill** College athletic director	Univ. of Redlands	2	Whittier, Calif.	FJ
92	**POOLE, James** College physical education teacher	San Diego State	1	Westminster, Calif.	BJ

*HL–Head Linesman BJ–Back Judge R–Referee FJ–Field Judge LJ–Line Judge U–Umpire

"RULES ARE MADE TO BE ENFORCED"

Each year is a re-learning process for the returning game officials. There are new rules each year, and in the last two years there have been more changes than usual. This year, at publication time, the NFL was working on the following changes:

—The NFL must approve decorative club markings in the end zone and on the 50-yard line.

(Apparently, some teams have so marked their fields that there was confusion as to the placement of the sidelines, end lines and yardage lines.)

—Players entering the game or leaving the field or legally reentering the field must not linger or be used in such a way that the opposition is confused.

(Last year some teams, notably including Minnesota, purposely held their subs on the field longer than necessary, thus deceiving the opposition as to the personnel intended to be involved in the next play.)

—A team may use a double shift inside the opposition 20-yard line after showing the double shift at least three times during the game.

(In the past, a team had to show the double shift three times in each quarter before showing it within the 20 during that quarter.)

—An incomplete fourth-down pass into or beyond the end zone gives the ball to the opposition at the previous spot.

(In the past, such a play brought the ball out to the 20-yard line. Now, the advantage goes to the team which threw the 4th down pass. It does not surrender some of the valuable goal line field position it attained. Also, the rule at times will make the opposition start its potential drive while backed up against its own goal line. In such situations, according to Virgil Carter's computer, the odds are that the team on defense will be the next team to score.)

—When there are penalties on both teams on one play, and one man is disqualified, the disqualification stands, but the penalties may be offsetting.

(In the past, only the team on which disqualification occurred was penalized yardage.)

—Penalties are now assessed at 10 yards each on (a) an ineligible player downfield on a forward pass, and (b) offensive pass interference.

(These infractions formerly cost the offensive team 15 yards. It's another attempt to reduce the long yardage situations for the offense, such as first down and 25 yards to go. The feeling has been that 1st and 25 often results in a team resorting to three straight plays out of context with reality. First and 20, at least, is a little less hopeless.)

—In the case of defensive holding or illegal use of hands, the penalty will be assessed from the previous line of scrimmage rather than from the spot where the ball is blown dead if that spot is behind the line of scrimmage.

(A standardization.)

Last year's many major rules changes (for 1974) were designed to open up the game, keep more drives alive, invite more forward passing and provide more touchdowns and fewer field goals. The chart shows some figures revealing which of these premises proved valid under the first year of the changes.

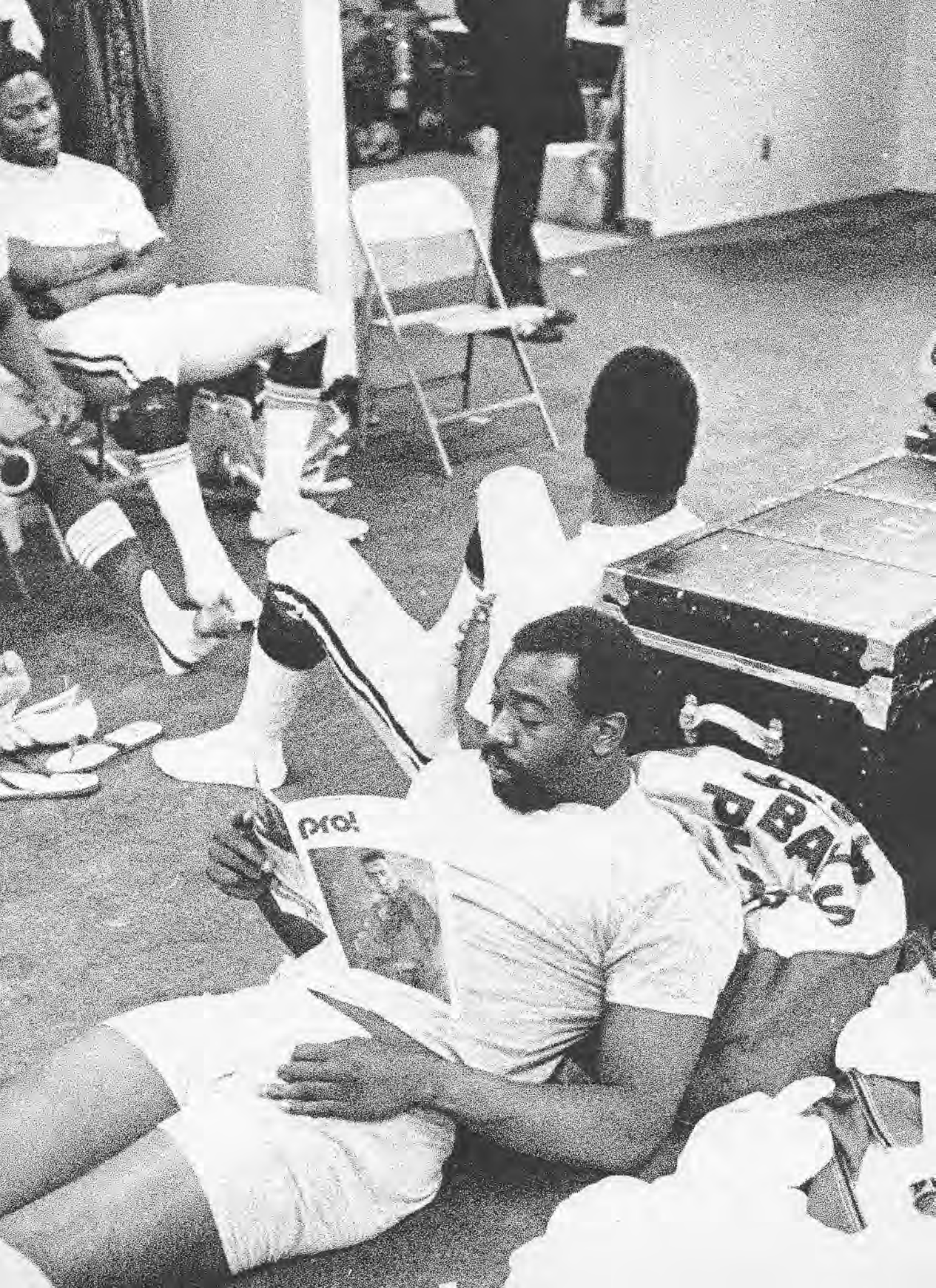
Analysis: The '74 new rules did open up the game (more passes). Field goals were much harder to make (36 percent fewer FGs tried), therefore more drives sustained (4 percent more TDs). However, there were 13 percent fewer scoring plays from scrimmage (including FGs, excluding safeties and conversions). More drives meant 3 percent more first downs. Changed defensive rules made passing more desirable (9 percent more passes thrown), and therefore rushing was less desirable (3 percent fewer rushing plays).

Summary: Field goals were never automatic, and there was more total excitement in fewer attempts. Drives were not aborted as early. Passing was used more often in basically non-passing situations. These results added excitement. However, there was less total scoring for those whose pleasure is derived primarily from the prolificacy of the scoreboard.

Year	No. of Passes	No. of Rushes	Yards passing	Yards Rushing	First Downs	FGs	TDs	Scoring
1973	8845	12,936	58,009	52,554	6032	543	779	7081
1974	9609	12,504	62,391	48,520	6211	335	810	6618

"OVERWHELMED BY THE SHEER NUMBERS"

PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER



THE 1974 OFFICIAL STATISTICS

PASSING

TOP TEN INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS
140 Attempts

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Avg Gain	Rating Points
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	328	213	64.9	2667	18	5.5	77t	10	3.0	8.13	95.9
Stabler, Ken, Oak.	310	178	57.4	2469	26	8.4	67t	12	3.9	7.96	94.8
Jurgensen, Sonny, Wash.	167	107	64.1	1185	11	6.6	44	5	3.0	7.10	94.6
Harris, James, L.A.	198	106	53.5	1544	11	5.6	50t	6	3.0	7.80	85.3
Johnson, Charley, Den.	244	136	55.7	1969	13	5.3	73t	9	3.7	8.07	84.4
Kilmer, Bill, Wash.	234	137	58.5	1632	10	4.3	51	6	2.6	6.97	83.4
Tarkenton, Fran, Minn.	351	199	56.7	2598	17	4.8	80t	12	3.4	7.40	82.0
Griese, Bob, Mia.	253	152	60.1	1968	16	6.3	54	15	5.9	7.78	81.0
Hart, Jim, St.L.	388	200	51.5	2411	20	5.2	80t	8	2.1	6.21	79.5
Munson, Bill, Det.	292	166	56.8	1874	8	2.7	56	7	2.4	6.42	75.2

AFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Avg Gain	Rating Points
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	328	213	64.9	2667	18	5.5	77t	10	3.0	8.13	95.9
Stabler, Ken, Oak.	310	178	57.4	2469	26	8.4	67t	12	3.9	7.96	94.8
Johnson, Charley, Den.	244	136	55.7	1969	13	5.3	73t	9	3.7	8.07	84.4
Griese, Bob, Mia.	253	152	60.1	1968	16	6.3	54	15	5.9	7.78	81.0
Pastorini, Dan, Hou.	247	140	56.7	1571	10	4.0	65	10	4.0	6.36	72.5
Namath, Joe, N.Y.J.	361	191	52.9	2616	20	5.5	89t	22	6.1	7.25	69.3
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	232	119	51.3	1588	12	5.2	55t	12	5.2	6.84	69.0
Dawson, Len, K.C.	235	138	58.7	1573	7	3.0	84t	13	5.5	6.69	66.0
Plunkett, Jim, N.E.	352	173	49.1	2457	19	5.4	69t	22	6.3	6.98	63.8
Jones, Bert, Balt.	270	143	53.0	1610	8	3.0	57	12	4.4	5.96	62.8
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	237	115	48.5	1732	8	3.4	75t	13	5.5	7.31	61.4
Gilliam, Joe, Pitt.	212	96	45.3	1274	4	1.9	61t	8	3.8	6.01	55.4
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	148	67	45.3	785	7	4.7	56	8	5.4	5.30	55.1
Phipps, Mike, Clev.	256	117	45.7	1384	9	3.5	55	17	6.6	5.41	46.9
Livingston, Mike, K.C.	141	66	46.8	732	4	2.8	48	10	7.1	5.19	42.5

NFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Avg Gain	Rating Points
Jurgensen, Sonny, Wash.	167	107	64.1	1185	11	6.6	44	5	3.0	7.10	94.6
Harris, James, L.A.	198	106	53.5	1544	11	5.6	50t	6	3.0	7.80	85.3
Kilmer, Bill, Wash.	234	137	58.5	1632	10	4.3	51	6	2.6	6.97	83.4
Tarkenton, Fran, Minn.	351	199	56.7	2598	17	4.8	80t	12	3.4	7.40	82.0
Hart, Jim, St.L.	388	200	51.5	2411	20	5.2	80t	8	2.1	6.21	79.5
Munson, Bill, Det.	292	166	56.8	1874	8	2.7	56	7	2.4	6.42	75.2
Staubach, Roger, Dall.	360	190	52.8	2552	11	3.1	58t	15	4.2	7.09	68.5
Snead, Norm, N.Y.G.-S.F.	159	97	61.0	983	5	3.1	53	8	5.0	6.18	68.2
Gabriel, Roman, Phil.	338	193	57.1	1867	9	2.7	64t	12	3.6	5.52	66.7
Morton, Craig, Dall.-N.Y.	239	124	51.9	1522	9	3.8	72	13	5.4	6.37	62.1
Owen, Tom, S.F.	184	88	47.8	1327	10	5.4	68t	15	8.2	7.21	55.8
Hadl, John, L.A.-G.B.	299	142	47.5	1752	8	2.7	68t	14	4.7	5.86	55.5
Huff, Gary, Chi.	283	142	50.2	1663	6	2.1	73	17	6.0	5.88	50.4
Manning, Archie, N.O.	261	134	51.3	1429	6	2.3	79t	16	6.1	5.48	49.9
Tagge, Jerry, G.B.	146	70	47.9	709	1	0.7	30	10	6.8	4.86	36.3

1974 PASSING - TEAM

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Tkd	Yards Lost	Net Yards	TDs	Pct TDs	Long	Had Int	Pct Int	Avg Yards Comp	Avg Pass Play	Pts
Cincinnati	353	224	63.5	2,804	37	293	2,511	18	5.1	77t	13	3.7	12.52	6.44	83.4
Oakland	335	186	55.5	2,561	24	177	2,384	28	8.4	67t	18	5.4	13.77	6.64	81.5
Miami	283	171	60.4	2,313	31	229	2,084	18	6.4	54	18	6.4	13.53	6.64	74.8
Denver	329	184	55.9	2,660	46	332	2,328	18	5.5	73t	17	5.2	14.46	6.21	71.2
New York Jets	369	194	52.6	2,631	19	195	2,436	20	5.4	89t	24	6.5	13.56	6.28	63.0
Buffalo	251	128	51.0	1,728	33	236	1,492	14	5.6	55t	15	6.0	13.50	5.25	60.1
New England	359	177	49.3	2,514	21	174	2,340	19	5.3	69t	23	6.4	14.20	6.16	59.8
Houston	363	203	55.9	2,275	33	298	1,977	12	3.3	65	19	5.2	11.21	4.99	58.8
San Diego	349	165	47.3	2,479	23	175	2,304	12	3.4	75t	22	6.3	15.02	6.19	52.4
Kansas City	395	211	53.4	2,421	37	313	2,108	11	2.8	84t	25	6.3	11.47	4.88	50.0
Baltimore	425	221	52.0	2,424	49	399	2,025	9	2.1	57	24	5.6	10.97	4.27	46.9
Pittsburgh	386	166	43.0	2,154	18	196	1,958	12	3.1	61t	21	5.4	12.98	4.85	46.0
Cleveland	367	179	48.8	2,129	48	402	1,727	12	3.3	60t	24	6.5	11.89	4.16	44.0
Conference Total	4,564	2,409	----	31,093	419	3,419	27,674	203	---	89t	263	---	-----	----	----
Conference Average	351.1	185.3	52.8	2,391.8	32.2	263.0	2,128.8	15.6	4.4	---	20.2	5.8	12.91	5.55	59.7

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Tkd	Yards Lost	Net Yards	TDs	Pct TDs	Long	Had Int	Pct Int	Avg Yards Comp	Avg Pass Play	Pts
Washington	413	254	61.5	2,978	25	176	2,802	22	5.3	69	11	2.7	11.72	6.40	86.4
Minnesota	400	234	58.5	2,909	19	154	2,755	22	5.5	80t	13	3.3	12.43	6.58	82.8
St. Louis	391	201	51.4	2,492	16	134	2,358	20	5.1	81	8	2.0	12.40	5.79	77.7
Detroit	377	216	57.3	2,475	35	255	2,220	11	2.9	56	11	2.9	11.46	5.39	69.9
Los Angeles	338	169	50.0	2,368	21	161	2,207	16	4.7	50t	13	3.8	14.01	6.15	69.2
Dallas	385	206	53.5	2,856	47	327	2,529	14	3.6	58t	15	3.9	13.86	5.85	66.8
Philadelphia	461	258	56.0	2,531	42	319	2,212	14	3.0	64t	17	3.7	9.81	4.40	61.7
New York Giants	393	207	52.7	2,349	20	156	2,193	12	3.1	72	26	6.6	11.35	5.31	51.0
New Orleans	389	185	47.6	2,037	37	276	1,761	10	2.6	79t	21	5.4	11.01	4.13	45.1
Green Bay	385	187	48.6	2,162	17	126	2,036	5	1.3	68t	21	5.5	11.56	5.06	45.1
San Francisco	361	170	47.1	2,281	35	274	2,007	15	4.2	68t	28	7.8	13.42	5.07	44.0
Chicago	396	185	46.7	2,079	36	359	1,720	8	2.0	73	22	5.6	11.24	3.98	40.9
Atlanta	356	160	44.9	1,781	50	474	1,307	4	1.1	52	31	8.7	11.13	3.22	20.3
Conference Total	5,045	2,632	----	31,298	400	3,191	28,107	173	---	81	237	---	-----	----	----
Conference Average	388.1	202.5	52.2	2,407.5	30.8	245.5	2,162.1	13.3	3.4	--	18.2	4.7	11.89	5.16	58.8
League Total	9,609	5,041	----	62,391	819	6,610	55,781	376	---	89t	500	---	-----	----	----
League Average	369.6	193.9	52.5	2,399.7	31.5	254.2	2,145.4	14.5	3.9	---	19.2	5.2	12.38	5.35	59.5

PASS RECEIVING

TEN TOP PASS RECEIVERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Mitchell, Lydell, Balt.	72	544	7.6	24	2
Young, Charles, Phil.	63	696	11.0	29	3
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	62	1087	17.5	50t	2
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	60	1092	18.2	67t	13
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	56	649	11.6	39	8
Jessie, Ron, Det.	54	761	14.1	46	3
Taylor, Charley, Wash.	54	738	13.7	51	5
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	53	586	11.1	66t	6
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	50	377	7.5	22t	1
Dawkins, Joe, N.Y.G.	46	332	7.2	51t	3

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Mitchell, Lydell, Balt.	72	544	7.6	24	2
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	60	1092	18.2	67t	13
Podolak, Ed, K.C.	43	306	7.1	26	1
Odoms, Riley, Den.	42	639	15.2	41	6
Biletnikoff, Fred, Oak.	42	593	14.1	46	7
Garrison, Gary, S.D.	41	785	19.1	71t	5
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	41	524	12.8	39	3
Knight, David, N.Y.J.	40	579	14.5	42t	4
Caster, Rich, N.Y.J.	38	745	19.6	89t	7
Herron, Mack, N.E.	38	474	12.5	48	5
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	38	405	10.7	48t	3
Moore, Nat, Mia.	37	605	16.4	48	2
Chester, Raymond, Balt.	37	461	12.5	45	1
Burrough, Ken, Hou.	36	492	13.7	51	2
Rashad, Ahmad, Buff.	36	433	12.0	29	4
Moses, Haven, Den.	34	559	16.4	42	2
Mandich, Jim, Mia.	33	374	11.3	44	6
Hill, J.D., Buff.	32	572	17.9	55t	6
Myers, Chip, Cin.	32	383	12.0	22	1
McKinnis, Hugh, Clev.	32	258	8.1	55	0
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	30	633	21.1	77t	10
Holden, Steve, Clev.	30	452	15.1	53	3
Lewis, Frank, Pitt.	30	365	12.2	31t	4
Moore, Bob, Oak.	30	356	11.9	32	2
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	29	388	13.4	44	2
Little, Floyd, Den.	29	344	11.9	72	0
Dressler, Doug, Cin.	29	196	6.8	23	0
Brown, Ken, Clev.	29	194	6.7	19	2
Warfield, Paul, Mia.	27	536	19.9	54	2
Rucker, Reggie, N.E.	27	436	16.1	69t	4
Pearson, Barry, K.C.	27	387	14.3	48	1
Morin, Milt, Clev.	27	330	12.2	32	3
Woods, Don, S.D.	26	349	13.4	75t	3
Green, Woody, K.C.	26	247	9.5	69t	1
Vataha, Randy, N.E.	25	561	22.4	59t	3
Willis, Fred, Hou.	25	130	5.2	21	1
Joiner, Charlie, Cin.	24	390	16.3	65t	1
Taylor, Otis, K.C.	24	375	15.6	64	2

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Young, Charles, Phil.	63	696	11.0	29	3
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	62	1087	17.5	50t	2
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	56	649	11.6	39	8
Jessie, Ron, Det.	54	761	14.1	46	3
Taylor, Charley, Wash.	54	738	13.7	51	5
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	53	586	11.1	66t	6
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	50	377	7.5	22t	1
Dawkins, Joe, N.Y.G.	46	332	7.2	51t	3
Smith, Jerry, Wash.	44	554	12.6	30	3
Jefferson, Roy, Wash.	43	654	15.2	43	4
Brockington, John, G.B.	43	314	7.3	29	0
Sanders, Charlie, Det.	42	532	12.7	47	3
Maxson, Alvin, N.O.	42	294	7.0	22	1
Tucker, Bob, N.Y.G.	41	496	12.1	29t	2
Parker, Joel, N.O.	41	455	11.1	58	4
Gray, Mel, St.L.	39	770	19.7	80t	6
Wade, Charlie, Chi.	39	683	17.5	73	1
McCutcheon, Lawrence, L.A.	39	408	10.5	50t	2
Sullivan, Tom, Phil.	39	312	8.0	23	1
Brown, Larry, Wash.	37	388	10.5	34	4
Burrow, Ken, Atl.	34	545	16.0	48	1
Thomas, Earl, St.L.	34	513	15.1	52t	5
Lane, MacArthur, G.B.	34	315	9.3	68t	3
Garrison, Walt, Dall.	34	253	7.4	30	1
James, Po, Phil.	33	230	7.0	34	0
Lash, Jim, Minn.	32	631	19.7	57	0
Seal, Paul, N.O.	32	466	14.6	42	3
Staggers, Jon, G.B.	32	450	14.1	63	0
Voigt, Stu, Minn.	32	268	8.4	22	5
Walton, Larry, Det.	31	404	13.0	48	3
Jackson, Harold, L.A.	30	514	17.1	44t	5
Mitchell, Jim, Atl.	30	479	16.0	52	1
McGeorge, Rich, G.B.	30	440	14.7	51	0
Zimmerman, Don, Phil.	30	368	12.3	64t	2
Taylor, Altie, Det.	30	293	9.8	34	1
Schreiber, Larry, S.F.	30	217	7.2	16	1

Leader based on most passes caught

t = Touchdown

INTERCEPTIONS

TEN TOP INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Thomas, Emmitt, K.C.	12	214	17.8	73t	2
Greene, Tony, Buff.	9	157	17.4	38	0
Brown, Ray, Atl.	8	164	20.5	59t	1
Darden, Thom, Clev.	8	105	13.1	31	0
Scott, Jake, Mia.	8	75	9.4	30	0
Elmendorf, Dave, L.A.	7	186	26.6	57t	2
Stukes, Charlie, L.A.	7	90	12.9	41	0
Bolton, Ron, N.E.	7	18	2.6	10	0
Thompson, Norm, St.L.	6	190	31.7	56t	1
Wright, Nate, Minn.	6	91	15.2	44	0

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Thomas, Emmitt, K.C.	12	214	17.8	73t	2
Greene, Tony, Buff.	9	157	17.4	38	0
Darden, Thom, Clev.	8	105	13.1	31	0
Scott, Jake, Mia.	8	75	9.4	30	0
Bolton, Ron, N.E.	7	18	2.6	10	0
Atkins, Bob, Hou.	6	85	14.2	36	0
Thomas, Alonzo, Oak.	6	70	11.7	34	1
Edwards, Glen, Pitt.	5	153	30.6	59	1
Thompson, Bill, Den.	5	105	21.0	38t	1
Sanders, John, N.E.	5	57	11.4	23t	1
Riley, Ken, Cin.	5	33	6.6	19	0
Thomas, J.T., Pitt.	5	22	4.4	14	0
Jones, Calvin, Den.	5	19	3.8	11	0
Ham, Jack, Pitt.	5	13	2.6	10	0
Sensibaugh, Mike, K.C.	4	85	21.3	33	0
Tatum, Jack, Oak.	4	84	21.0	40	0
Fletcher, Chris, S.D.	4	74	18.5	31	0
Rowser, John, Den.	4	56	14.0	33	0
Scott, Clarence, Clev.	4	42	10.5	25	0
Atkinson, George, Oak.	4	39	9.8	26	0
Bingham, Gregg, Hou.	4	36	9.0	18	0
Reardon, Kerry, K.C.	4	0	0.0	0	0
Owens, Burgess, N.Y.J.	3	68	22.7	39	1
Hunt, Sam, N.E.	3	66	22.0	27	0
McCray, Prentice, N.E.	3	61	20.3	33	0
Hall, Charlie, Clev.	3	54	18.0	29t	1
Howard, Bob, S.D.	3	52	17.3	23	0
Mildren, Jack, N.E.	3	51	17.0	41	0
Ebersole, John, N.Y.J.	3	48	16.0	41	0
Rice, Floyd, S.D.	3	44	14.7	15	0
Wilson, Nemiah, Oak.	3	35	11.7	34	0
Curtis, Mike, Balt.	3	24	8.0	11	0
Conners, Dan, Oak.	3	19	6.3	18	0
James, Bob, Buff.	3	13	4.3	8	0
Baker, Ralph, N.Y.J.	2	87	43.5	67t	1
Blount, Mel, Pitt.	2	74	37.0	52t	1

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Brown, Ray, Atl.	8	164	20.5	59t	1
Elmendorf, Dave, L.A.	7	186	26.6	57t	2
Stukes, Charlie, L.A.	7	90	12.9	41	0
Thompson, Norm, St.L.	6	190	31.7	56t	1
Wright, Nate, Minn.	6	91	15.2	44	0
Johnson, Levi, Det.	5	139	27.8	55t	2
Stone, Ken, Wash.	5	95	19.0	31	0
Hendricks, Ted, G.B.	5	74	14.8	44	0
McGill, Ralph, S.F.	5	71	14.2	45	0
Bergey, Bill, Phil.	5	57	11.4	27	0
Clemons, Craig, Chi.	4	84	21.0	37	0
Barney, Lem, Det.	4	61	15.3	39	0
Wright, Jeff, Minn.	4	60	15.0	27	0
Owens, Brig, Wash.	4	59	14.8	24	0
Jackson, Ernie, N.O.	4	53	13.3	28	0
Nunley, Frank, S.F.	4	30	7.5	20	0
Schmidt, Terry, N.O.	4	27	6.8	24t	1
Buchanon, Willie, G.B.	4	10	2.5	8	0
Hanburger, Chris, Wash.	4	6	1.5	5	0
Lyle, Garry, Chi.	3	57	19.0	36	0
Ellis, Ken, G.B.	3	56	18.7	38t	1
Fischer, Pat, Wash.	3	52	17.3	30	0
Johnson, Jimmy, S.F.	3	50	16.7	37	0
Myers, Tom, N.O.	3	43	14.3	21	0
Matthews, Alvin, G.B.	3	41	13.7	32	0
Martin, Amos, Minn.	3	39	13.0	28	0
Preece, Steve, L.A.	3	38	12.7	17	0
Bass, Mike, Wash.	3	33	11.0	28t	1
Ellis, Allan, Chi.	3	32	10.7	19	0
Holmes, Mike, S.F.	3	26	8.7	14	0
Crist, Chuck, N.Y.G.	3	20	6.7	20	0
Ellis, Clarence, Atl.	3	11	3.7	6	0
Harris, Cliff, Dall.	3	8	2.7	8	0
Weaver, Charley, Det.	3	4	1.3	3	0
Montgomery, Randy, Chi.	2	56	28.0	33	0
Wehrli, Roger, St.L.	2	54	27.0	53t	1

1974 INTERCEPTIONS - TEAM

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Kansas City	28	531	19.0	73t	5
Oakland	27	378	14.0	40	1
Pittsburgh	25	320	12.8	59	2
Cleveland	24	336	14.0	36t	2
New England	24	294	12.3	41	2
Denver	22	311	14.1	39	1
Houston	21	313	14.9	36	1
Buffalo	20	413	20.7	72t	2
New York Jets	17	278	16.4	67t	2
Miami	16	139	8.7	30	0
San Diego	15	273	18.2	35	0
Baltimore	10	87	8.7	40	0
Cincinnati	9	110	12.2	34	0
Conference Total	258	3,783	----	73t	18
Conference Average	19.8	291.0	14.7	--	1.4

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Washington	25	328	13.1	37	2
Green Bay	23	278	12.1	44	1
Los Angeles	22	340	15.5	57t	2
Minnesota	22	282	12.8	45	0
San Francisco	20	247	12.4	45	1
Chicago	18	293	16.3	37	0
Philadelphia	18	176	9.8	37t	1
Detroit	17	266	15.6	55t	2
Atlanta	17	210	12.4	59t	1
St. Louis	16	372	23.3	56t	2
New Orleans	16	179	11.2	28	1
New York Giants	15	91	6.1	21	0
Dallas	13	110	8.5	27	0
Conference Total	242	3,172	----	59t	13
Conference Average	18.6	244.0	13.1	--	1.0
League Total	500	6,955	----	73t	31
League Average	19.2	267.5	13.9	--	1.2

t=Touchdown L=Lateral

Leader based on most interceptions

RUSHING

TOP TEN RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	263	1407	5.3	43	9
Woods, Don, S.D.	227	1162	5.1	56t	7
Simpson, O.J., Buff.	270	1125	4.2	41t	3
McCutcheon, Lawrence, L.A.	236	1109	4.7	23t	3
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	208	1006	4.8	54	5
Brockington, John, G.B.	266	883	3.3	33	5
Hubbard, Marv, Oak.	188	865	4.6	32	4
Hill, Calvin, Dall.	185	844	4.6	27	7
Herron, Mack, N.E.	231	824	3.6	28	7
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	166	811	4.9	75t	9

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	263	1407	5.3	43	9
Woods, Don, S.D.	227	1162	5.1	56t	7
Simpson, O.J., Buff.	270	1125	4.2	41t	3
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	208	1006	4.8	54	5
Hubbard, Marv, Oak.	188	865	4.6	32	4
Herron, Mack, N.E.	231	824	3.6	28	7
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	166	811	4.9	75t	9
Mitchell, Lydell, Balt.	214	757	3.5	31t	5
Csonka, Larry, Mia.	197	749	3.8	24	9
Riggins, John, N.Y.J.	169	680	4.0	34	5
Boozer, Emerson, N.Y.J.	153	563	3.7	20	4
Davis, Clarence, Oak.	129	554	4.3	41	2
Braxton, Jim, Buff.	146	543	3.7	21t	4
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	126	540	4.3	54	3
McKinnis, Hugh, Clev.	124	519	4.2	44t	2
Green, Woody, K.C.	135	509	3.8	43	3
Malone, Ben, Mia.	117	479	4.1	23t	3
Olds, Bill, Balt.	129	475	3.7	34	1
Brown, Ken, Clev.	125	458	3.7	27	4
Rodgers, Willie, Hou.	122	413	3.4	20t	5
Podolak, Ed, K.C.	101	386	3.8	14	2
Davis, Charlie, Cin.	72	375	5.2	29	0
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	81	374	4.6	30t	10
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	88	373	4.2	18	2
Elliott, Lenvil, Cin.	68	345	5.1	26	1
Matthews, Bo, S.D.	95	328	3.5	16	4
Pearson, Preston, Pitt.	70	317	4.5	53	4
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	43	314	7.3	20	2
Clark, Boobie, Cin.	99	312	3.2	22	5
Little, Floyd, Den.	117	312	2.7	22	1
Washington, Vic, Hou.	74	281	3.8	23	2
Jones, Bert, Balt.	39	279	7.2	39	4
Phipps, Mike, Clev.	39	279	7.2	19	1
Kiick, Jim, Mia.	86	274	3.2	15	1
Nottingham, Don, Mia.	66	273	4.1	24	8
Banaszak, Pete, Oak.	80	272	3.4	20t	5

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
McCutcheon, Lawrence, L.A.	236	1109	4.7	23t	3
Brockington, John, G.B.	266	883	3.3	33	5
Hill, Calvin, Dall.	185	844	4.6	27	7
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	199	777	3.9	32	9
Sullivan, Tom, Phil.	244	760	3.1	28t	11
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	152	718	4.7	75t	6
Maxson, Alvin, N.O.	165	714	4.3	66t	2
Jackson, Wilbur, S.F.	174	705	4.1	64	0
Otis, Jim, St.L.	158	664	4.2	23	1
Schreiber, Larry, S.F.	174	634	3.6	21	3
Dawkins, Joe, N.Y.G.	156	561	3.6	16	2
Phillips, Jess, N.O.	174	556	3.2	14	2
Taylor, Altie, Det.	150	532	3.5	27	5
Osborn, Dave, Minn.	131	514	3.9	17	4
Newhouse, Bobby, Dall.	124	501	4.0	23	3
Grandberry, Ken, Chi.	144	475	3.3	31	2
Hampton, Dave, Atl.	127	464	3.7	34	2
Brown, Larry, Wash.	163	430	2.6	16	3
Garrison, Walt, Dall.	113	429	3.8	18	5
Bertelsen, Jim, L.A.	127	419	3.3	20	2
Malone, Art, Atl.	116	410	3.5	13	2
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	106	396	3.7	53t	4
Denson, Moses, Wash.	103	391	3.8	23	0
Owens, Steve, Det.	97	374	3.9	27	3
Lane, MacArthur, G.B.	137	362	2.6	20	3
Thomas, Duane, Wash.	95	347	3.7	66	5
Garrett, Carl, Chi.	96	346	3.6	19	1
Staubach, Roger, Dall.	47	320	6.8	29	3
Anderson, Donny, St.L.	90	316	3.5	16	3
James, Po, Phil.	67	276	4.1	15	2
McQuay, Leon, N.Y.G.	55	240	4.4	21	1
Johnson, Sammy, S.F.	44	237	5.4	32	2
Stanback, Haskel, Atl.	57	235	4.1	23t	1
Douglass, Bobby, Chi.	36	229	6.4	17	1
Williams, Perry, Chi.	74	218	2.9	12	1
Johnson, Ron, N.Y.G.	97	218	2.2	14	4

1974 RUSHING - TEAM

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Pittsburgh	546	2,417	4.4	54	19
Oakland	561	2,334	4.2	41	15
Miami	570	2,191	3.8	41t	25
Denver	486	2,157	4.4	43	20
New England	520	2,134	4.1	75t	21
San Diego	508	2,111	4.2	56t	15
Buffalo	545	2,094	3.8	41t	11
Cincinnati	445	1,978	4.4	29	14
Cleveland	461	1,924	4.2	54	14
Baltimore	450	1,818	4.0	39	13
Kansas City	469	1,720	3.7	47	10
New York Jets	444	1,625	3.7	34	12
Houston	421	1,361	3.2	47t	16
Conference Total	6,426	25,864	---	75t	205
Conference Average	494.3	1,989.5	4.0	--	15.8

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Dallas	542	2,454	4.5	53	22
Los Angeles	566	2,125	3.8	23t	16
New Orleans	503	1,983	3.9	66t	9
San Francisco	477	1,981	4.2	71t	10
St. Louis	466	1,956	4.2	75t	12
Minnesota	488	1,856	3.8	32	17
Green Bay	482	1,571	3.3	47	10
New York Giants	441	1,496	3.4	53t	11
Atlanta	400	1,493	3.7	34	6
Chicago	434	1,480	3.4	31	10
Washington	470	1,443	3.1	66	11
Detroit	397	1,433	3.6	27	13
Philadelphia	415	1,385	3.3	28t	13
Conference Total	6,081	22,656	---	75t	160
Conference Average	467.8	1,742.8	3.7	--	12.3
League Total	12,507	48,520	---	75t	365
League Average	481.0	1,866.2	3.9	--	14.0

t = Touchdown

Leader based on most yards gained

SCORING

TOP TEN SCORERS - TOUCHDOWNS

	Tot TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Misc TDs	Tot Pts
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	15	9	6	0	90
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	13	0	13	0	78
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	12	9	3	0	72
Herron, Mack, N.E.	12	7	5	0	72
Sullivan, Tom, Phil.	12	11	1	0	72
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	11	9	2	0	66
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	10	0	10	0	60
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	10	10	0	0	60
Woods, Don, S.D.	10	7	3	0	60
Csonka, Larry, Mia.	9	9	0	0	54

TOP TEN SCORERS - KICKING

	XP Made	XP Att	FG Made	FG Att	Tot Pts
Marcol, Chester, G.B.	19	19	25	39	94
Gerela, Roy, Pitt.	33	35	20	29	93
Mann, Errol, Det.	23	26	23	32	92
Smith, John, N.E.	42	43	16	22	90
Leypoldt, John, Buff.	25	29	19	33	82
Moseley, Mark, Wash.	27	29	18	30	81
Blanda, George, Oak.	44	46	11	17	77
Stenerud, Jan, K.C.	24	26	17	24	75
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	29	30	14	16	71
Bakken, Jim, St.L.	30	36	13	22	69

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	TDs	TDR	TDP	TDM	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	PTS
Gerela, Roy, Pitt.	0	0	0	0	33	35	20	29	93
Smith, John, N.E.	0	0	0	0	42	43	16	22	90
Leypoldt, John, Buff.	0	0	0	0	25	29	19	33	82
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	78
Blanda, George, Oak.	0	0	0	0	44	46	11	17	77
Stenerud, Jan, K.C.	0	0	0	0	24	26	17	24	75
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	72
Herron, Mack, N.E.	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	72
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	0	0	0	0	29	30	14	16	71
Turner, Jim, Den.	0	0	0	0	35	38	11	21	68
Yepremian, Garo, Mia.	0	0	0	0	43	43	8	15	67
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	11	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	66
Muhlmann, Horst, Cin.	0	0	0	0	32	35	11	18	65
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	60
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Woods, Don, S.D.	10	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	60
Linhart, Toni, Balt.	0	0	0	0	22	22	12	20	58
Butler, Skip, Hou.	0	0	0	0	29	29	9	19	56

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	TDs	TDR	TDP	TDM	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	PTS
Marcol, Chester, G.B.	0	0	0	0	19	19	25	39	94
Mann, Errol, Det.	0	0	0	0	23	26	23	32	92
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	15	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	90
Moseley, Mark, Wash.	0	0	0	0	27	29	18	30	81
Sullivan, Tom, Phil.	12	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	72
Bakken, Jim, St.L.	0	0	0	0	30	36	13	22	69
Cox, Fred, Minn.	0	0	0	0	32	39	12	20	68
Gossett, Bruce, S.F.	0	0	0	0	25	27	11	24	58
Herrera, Efren, Dall.	0	0	0	0	33	33	8	13	57
Dempsey, Tom, Phil.	0	0	0	0	26	30	10	16	56
Ray, David, L.A.	0	0	0	0	25	31	9	16	52
Gogolak, Pete, N.Y.G.	0	0	0	0	21	23	10	19	51
Carmichael, Harold, Phil	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	48
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	8	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	48
McClard, Bill, N.O.	0	0	0	0	19	20	9	16	46
Roder, Mirro, Chi.	0	0	0	0	17	17	9	13	44
Brown, Larry, Wash.	7	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	42
Hill, Calvin, Dall.	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	42

PUNTING

TOP TEN PUNTERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	Blk
Guy, Ray, Oak.	74	3124	42.2	66	0
Blanchard, Tom, N.O.	88	3704	42.1	71	0
Wilson, Jerrel, K.C.	83	3462	41.7	64	2
Wittum, Tom, S.F.	68	2800	41.2	67	1
Green, Dave, Cin.	66	2701	40.9	53	0
James, John, Atl.	96	3891	40.5	61	1
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	90	3643	40.5	64	0
Bateman, Marv, Dall-Buff.	67	2712	40.5	66	0
Van Heusen, Bill, Den.	75	3024	40.3	61	1
Partee, Dennis, S.D.	76	3042	40.0	65	0

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	Blk
Guy, Ray, Oak.	74	3124	42.2	66	0
Wilson, Jerrel, K.C.	83	3462	41.7	64	2
Green, Dave, Cin.	66	2701	40.9	53	0
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	90	3643	40.5	64	0
Bateman, Marv, Dall-Buff.	67	2712	40.5	66	0
Van Heusen, Bill, Den.	75	3024	40.3	61	1
Partee, Dennis, S.D.	76	3042	40.0	65	0
Beverly, Dave, Hou.	79	3100	39.2	69	0
Walden, Bobby, Pitt.	78	3040	39.0	65	0
Seiple, Larry, Mia.	65	2511	38.6	60	0
Jones, Spike, Buff.	35	1305	37.3	56	0
Lee, David, Balt.	71	2634	37.1	58	1
Chapple, Dave, L.A.-N.E.	55	1995	36.3	57	1
Gantt, Greg, N.Y.J.	75	2689	35.9	59	0
Barnes, Bruce, N.E.	45	1604	35.6	50	0

Leader based on average punt, minimum 35 punts.

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	Blk
Blanchard, Tom, N.O.	88	3704	42.1	71	0
Wittum, Tom, S.F.	68	2800	41.2	67	1
James, John, Atl.	96	3891	40.5	61	1
Jennings, Dave, N.Y.G.	68	2709	39.8	64	2
Carrell, Duane, Dall.	40	1591	39.8	59	0
Roberts, Hal, St.L.	81	3131	38.7	57	0
Weaver, Herman, Det.	72	2772	38.5	61	2
Walker, Randy, G.B.	69	2648	38.4	58	0
Bragg, Mike, Wash.	74	2823	38.1	57	1
Parsons, Bob, Chi.	90	3408	37.9	59	1
Burke, Mike, L.A.	46	1701	37.0	51	0
Eischeid, Mike, Minn.	73	2636	36.1	50	1
Kersey, Merritt, Phil.	82	2959	36.1	59	2
(Non-Qualifiers)					
Gibbs, Donnie, N.O.	3	99	33.0	35	0
Bradley, Bill, Phil.	2	67	33.5	35	0
Gossett, Bruce, S.F.	2	56	28.0	31	0
Crosby, Steve, N.Y.G.	1	60	60.0	60	0

PUNT RETURNS

TOP TEN PUNT RETURNERS

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Parrish, Lemar, Cin.	18	1	338	18.8	90t	2
Jauron, Dick, Det.	17	7	286	16.8	58	0
Morgan, Dennis, Dall. ...	19	0	287	15.1	98t	1
Herron, Mack, N.E.	35	4	517	14.8	66	0
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	41	3	577	14.1	69	1
Tinker, Gerald, Atl.	14	1	195	13.9	72t	1
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	30	3	409	13.6	49	0
Thompson, Bill, Den.	26	1	350	13.5	60	0
Metcalf, Terry, St.L. ...	26	3	340	13.1	43	0
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	27	0	349	12.9	72	0

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Parrish, Lemar, Cin.	18	1	338	18.8	90t	2
Herron, Mack, N.E.	35	4	517	14.8	66	0
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	41	3	577	14.1	69	1
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	30	3	409	13.6	49	0
Thompson, Bill, Den.	26	1	350	13.5	60	0
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	27	0	349	12.9	72	0
Smith, Ron, Oak.	41	2	486	11.9	55	0
Scott, Jake, Mia.	31	3	346	11.2	30	0
Casanova, Tom, Cin.	24	2	265	11.0	74	0
Podolak, Ed, K.C.	15	2	134	8.9	54	0
Walker, Donnie, Buff. ...	43	2	384	8.9	52	0
Colbert, Danny, S.D.	15	1	128	8.5	28	0
Darden, Thom, Clev.	21	0	173	8.2	45	0
Edwards, Glen, Pitt.	16	0	128	8.0	19	0
Word, Roscoe, N.Y.J.	38	2	301	7.9	34	0

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Jauron, Dick, Det.	17	7	286	16.8	58	0
Morgan, Dennis, Dall. ...	19	0	287	15.1	98t	1
Tinker, Gerald, Atl.	14	1	195	13.9	72t	1
Metcalf, Terry, St.L. ...	26	3	340	13.1	43	0
Dodd, Al, Atl.	27	0	344	12.7	57	0
Odom, Steve, G.B.	15	2	191	12.7	95t	1
Bradley, Bill, Phil.	22	5	248	11.3	22	0
Theismann, Joe, Wash. ...	15	3	157	10.5	44	0
Stevens, Howard, N.O. ...	37	7	376	10.2	40	0
Staggers, Jon, G.B.	22	6	222	10.1	68t	1
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	17	0	171	10.1	23	0
Athas, Pete, N.Y.G.	20	1	180	9.0	22	0
McGill, Ralph, S.F.	20	3	166	8.3	47	0
Elmendorf, Dave, L.A. ...	17	0	134	7.9	18	0
Wallace, Jackie, Minn. ..	25	4	191	7.6	20	0

t = Touchdown

Leader based on average return, minimum 14 returns

KICKOFF RETURNS

TOP TEN KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	20	623	31.2	94t	1
Jones, Larry, Wash.	23	672	29.2	102t	1
McQuay, Leon, N.Y.G.	25	689	27.6	72	0
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	22	606	27.5	88t	1
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	29	785	27.1	67	0
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	23	617	26.8	84t	1
Moore, Nat, Mia.	22	587	26.7	40	0
Laird, Bruce, Balt.	19	499	26.3	55	0
Hart, Harold, Oak.	18	466	25.9	67	0
Grandberry, Ken, Chi.	22	568	25.8	69	0

AFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	22	606	27.5	88t	1
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	29	785	27.1	67	0
Moore, Nat, Mia.	22	587	26.7	40	0
Laird, Bruce, Balt.	19	499	26.3	55	0
Hart, Harold, Oak.	18	466	25.9	67	0
Francis, Wallace, Buff.	37	947	25.6	74	0
Gordon, Dick, S.D.	14	354	25.3	39	0
Piccone, Lou, N.Y.J.	39	961	24.6	46	0
Speyrer, Cotton, Balt.	22	539	24.5	44	0
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	16	386	24.1	41	0
Jackson, Bernard, Cin.	29	682	23.5	45	0
Thomas, Bill, K.C.	25	571	22.8	33	0
Herron, Mack, N.E.	28	629	22.5	62	0
Miller, Cleophus, K.C.	14	310	22.1	29	0
Smith, Ron, Oak.	19	420	22.1	41	0
Lefear, Billy, Clev.	26	574	22.1	41	0
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	15	303	20.2	41	0

NFC - INDIVIDUAL

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TDs
Metcalf, Terry, St.L.	20	623	31.2	94t	1
Jones, Larry, Wash.	23	672	29.2	102t	1
McQuay, Leon, N.Y.G.	25	689	27.6	72	0
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	23	617	26.8	84t	1
Grandberry, Ken, Chi.	22	568	25.8	69	0
Holmes, Mike, S.F.	25	612	24.5	57	0
Jones, Jimmie, Det.	38	927	24.4	59	0
Tinker, Gerald, Atl.	29	704	24.3	59	0
Jackson, Randy, Phil.	14	339	24.2	52	0
McClanahan, Brent, Minn.	23	549	23.9	52	0
Morgan, Dennis, Dall.	35	823	23.5	43	0
Marshall, Larry, Minn-Phil. ..	20	468	23.4	44	0
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	15	350	23.3	52	0
Odom, Steve, G.B.	31	713	23.0	52	0
Stevens, Howard, N.O.	33	749	22.7	41	0
Moore, Manfred, S.F.	18	398	22.1	51	0
Taylor, Clifton, Chi.	27	567	21.0	38	0

t = Touchdown

Leader based on average return, minimum 14 returns

"HAVE FUN WITH THE NUMBERS"

Most game and regular season statistics are clear-cut facts and figures. They're absolutes. You can measure McCutcheon against Armstrong or Biletnikoff against Jefferson simply by referring to the comparative stats.

More difficult to evaluate are the performances of the guards, tackles, centers and defensive players. Except for interceptions, which are not true evaluators of performance, there's no way the stat charts will give you a line on a player who isn't involved with touching the ball.

Basically, regular pro football fans are knowledgeable. Season ticket holders through the years have become aware of many of the nuances of strategy and finer points of the in-fighting. But there is one small area, involving defensive backs, about which some fans still are misguided. Let's look at our point in the form of a mythical, but typical, example.

It's the fourth quarter. Sammy Offy is playing left wide receiver for the visiting team. In the home team's defensive backfield, at right corner, is Bud Deffy. Offy goes downfield on a pass pattern, breaks off sharply to the sideline. Deffy, in trying to cut with him, slips on the turf, loses his balance momentarily, and Offy is clear, taking an out-pattern pass at the sideline and stepping out of bounds for an important first down.

The fans in the stands are furious. They boo. These catcalls are heard: "Deffy, you bum!" "Deffy gets his first chance of the game and he blows it." "Get Deffy out of there. He hasn't intercepted the ball in three games." And more.

On the surface, it looks bad. Deffy defends against a pass for the first time in the game, and the pass is caught for a first down.

Beneath the surface, the opposite is true. Deffy has played an outstanding game in covering Offy. In fact, for the first three quarters, Deffy covered Offy so well that Offy's quarterback never once threw to Offy. What would have been the point in throwing to him? Deffy was right there every time, and the risk of having Deffy pick one off was very high.

Of course, the fans did not see this. Nor did most of the writers nor any of the play-by-play broadcasters. There are many, many simultaneous battles going on during each play, and the personal struggle between Offy and Deffy is but one. Fans, writers and broadcasters are preoccupied watching the ball, which, until this one play, never has been thrown in the area of the Offy-Deffy battle.

Those who have said, "Give Deffy his one chance and he blows it" haven't realized that he has had a chance on every pass play during the entire game, and always has won his battle until this one time, when he slipped.

Defensive backs in the NFL are well aware of this irony, and are prepared to face the ill feeling of the crowd when, finally, after 20 perfect coverages, they are outfoxed for a completion on the 21st.

Writers usually have a chance to learn of Deffy's excellent play by asking questions in the dressing room after the game. The broadcaster, who is working with instant time, has an obligation to have his spotters or other observers aware of this kind of sidebar activity throughout the game, so that the first completion can be presented in its proper perspective.

Because of the need for sportcasters to keep up with the game's growing sophistication, it is good to see Frank Gifford, of the ABC Monday night crew, improve so rapidly in his play-by-play. Weak at the outset of his ABC career, Frank now has developed the knack of concentrating on the game's strategy, despite the distractions of the showmen in the booth (and they, of course, have their place, too, not undeservedly).

But the best move made in years in network pro football broadcasting has been CBS' acquisition of Vin Scully. The amount of preparation time he has spent in the past off-season has been startling to those whom he has sought for help. Already the most articulate play-by-play man in any sport, Scully should shift gears from baseball to football with instant success. And since this is a CBS year for the Super Bowl, a Scully assignment to the Big One could come quickly. It might not even be a matter of time.

SUPER BOWL WINNERS

SB	Date	Place	Winner		Loser	
I	Jan. 15, 1967	Los Angeles	Green Bay	(NFL) 35	Kansas City	(AFL) 10
II	Jan. 14, 1968	Miami	Green Bay	(NFL) 33	Oakland	(AFL) 14
III	Jan. 12, 1969	Miami	New York Jets	(AFL) 16	Baltimore	(NFL) 7
IV	Jan. 11, 1970	New Orleans	Kansas City	(AFL) 23	Minnesota	(NFL) 7
V	Jan. 17, 1971	Miami	Baltimore	(AFC) 16	Dallas	(NFC) 13
VI	Jan. 16, 1972	New Orleans	Dallas	(NFC) 24	Miami	(AFC) 3
VII	Jan. 14, 1973	Los Angeles	Miami	(AFC) 14	Washington	(NFC) 7
VIII	Jan. 13, 1974	Houston	Miami	(AFC) 24	Minnesota	(NFC) 7
IX	Jan. 12, 1975	New Orleans	Pittsburgh	(AFC) 16	Minnesota	(NFC) 6

Accumulative:

AFL-AFC	6-3	Pitts.	1-0	Dall.	1-1
NFL-NFC	3-6	Miami	2-1	Oakl.	0-1
G. Bay	2-0	K.C.	1-1	Wash.	0-1
N.Y. Jets	1-0	Balt.	1-1	Minn.	0-3

"NUMBER NINE'S SPECIAL FOR PITTSBURGH"

PITTSBURGH'S LICENSED STEALERS

IN SUPER BOWL IX, FOUR KEYS OPENED DOORS CLOSED FOR 42 YEARS

BY TED COLTON

How would you feel if you arrived at work to find Mean Joe Greene and Ernie "Fats" Holmes standing over you attempting to beat your head in for the good part of the day?

It would be enough to make one want to change his chosen profession. Well, Minnesota center Mick Tingelhoff hasn't announced his retirement yet, but had he done so, no one could have blamed him. For one cold January afternoon in Tulane Stadium, Tingelhoff faced just such a situation. It was a day he'll remember.

It was a day Franco Harris was voted the most valuable Super Bowl IX player while helping the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 16-6 win in their first National Football League championship game in 42 years.

It was a day on which quarterback Terry Bradshaw was outstanding, Gerry Mullins played as good a game at offensive guard as one could play and it was a day that Steeler left defensive end L.C. Greenwood acted out Bill Russell's role, blocking more of Fran Tarkenton's "shots" than the Viking quarterback cares to remember.

But the REAL story of Super Bowl IX was the defense. The REAL story behind Pittsburgh's phenomenal success against the run, both in the Super Bowl and in the American Conference championship game against Oakland, was the Odd 4-3, an oddball alignment conceived by Greene, Holmes, Greenwood and Dwight "Mad Dog" White, the Steeler front four themselves, and their enthusiastic coach, George Perles.

On the Odd 4-3, defensive tackles Greene and Holmes are shoulder-to-shoulder, directly over the center's head, in Super Bowl IX's case, over Mick Tingelhoff (Fig. 1).

The defense was conceived early in the season by Perles and the front four. During the regular season, the Steelers used it with success about 20 percent of the time, but in the final two games, against Oakland and the Vikings, Perles and head coach Chuck Noll elected to use the Odd 4-3 about 80 percent of the time.

They had their reasons.

The results are history. Oakland gained 29 yards in 21 rushes and the Vikings only 17 yards in 21 attempts, almost unbelievable statistics considering the fact that both the Raiders and Vikings are run-oriented teams.

Franco's 158 yards in 34 carries set a Super Bowl record. The Counter 15 Special was the play Franco ran most consistently to notch his name in the record book. Rocky Bleier's assignment was to clear the way for Franco on the C-15 Special. Meanwhile, the Rock used the Dive 34 Sucker to pile up his own real estate, 65 yards on 17 carries.

While Greene and Holmes were outstanding, All-Pro end L.C. Greenwood was spectacular, blocking four Tarkenton passes before they crossed the line of scrimmage. One wonders if it wasn't a basketball contract L.C. signed last year instead of one with Birmingham of the WFL.

The defensive achievements of the Steelers against the Vikings in Super Bowl IX and Oakland in the AFC championship game were feats that perhaps will never be achieved again, a combined 46 yards in 41 tries, a 1.1 per try average.

The Odd 4-3 surely will be copied by many teams next season. But Perles has a warning: "Don't attempt it unless you have a Greene and a Holmes around."

With the two interior defensive men playing over the center, huge gaps seem to be created between the tackles and the defensive ends. However, these holes seem to dissipate once the ball is snapped.

Holmes and Greene have several options off the Odd 4-3. They can both rush straight ahead, attempting to penetrate the gaps between the center and the guards. Or, they can use tackle-tackle games or even tackle-end games on either side.

The secret of the success of the Odd 4-3, however, is penetration by the tackles. "You have to have two tackles who are quick and strong," says Perles. "If you don't, the Odd 4-3 will hurt you more than it will help you."

Originally, Perles and his front four believed the defense might be effective only in passing situations. But they experimented with it against the run and found it equally effective.

The Steelers used the Odd 4-3 only about 20 percent of the time during the regular season but the figure was 80 percent against the Raiders and Vikings because both were mainly straight-ahead blocking teams. Their blocking patterns were uncomplicated. They just liked to blow the defense right off the ball.

STEELERS

OFFENSE

WR	82	Stallworth
LT	55	Kolb
LG	50	Clack
C	56	Mansfield
RG	72	Mullins
RT	71	Gravelle
TE	87	Brown
WR	88	Swann
QB	12	Bradshaw
RB	32	Harris
RB	20	Bleier

DEFENSE

LE	68	Greenwood
LT	75	Greene
RT	63	Holmes
RE	78	White
LLB	59	Ham
MLB	58	Lambert
RLB	34	Russell
LCB	24	Thomas
RCB	47	Blount
SS	23	Wagner
FS	27	Edwards

VIKINGS

OFFENSE

WR	82	Lash
LT	68	Goodrum
LG	66	Maurer
C	53	Tingelhoff
RG	62	White
RT	73	Yary
TE	83	Voigt
WR	42	Gilliam
QB	10	Tarkenton
RB	44	Foreman
RB	41	Osborn

DEFENSE

LE	81	Eller
LT	69	Sutherland
RT	88	Page
RE	70	Marshall
LLB	60	Winston
MLB	50	Siemon
RLB	58	Hilgenberg
LCB	43	Wright N.
RCB	25	Wallace
SS	23	Wright J.
FS	22	Krause

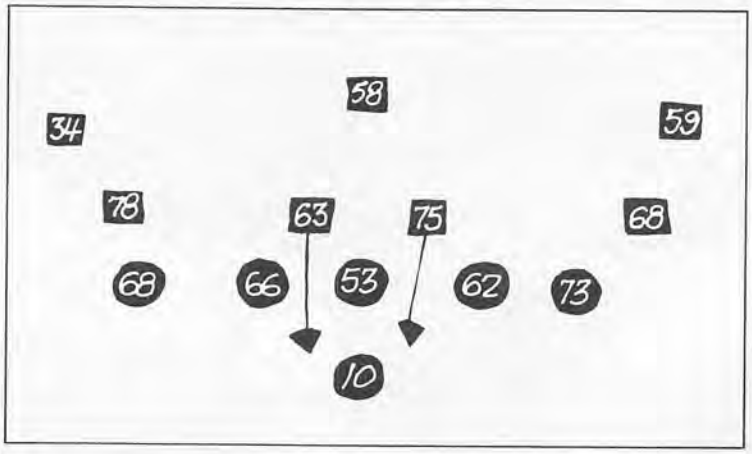


FIG. 1 Steelers' Odd 4-3

The Odd 4-3 was even more effective against the Vikings because Minnesota had a left-handed guard! That's right! Most linemen are right-handed, a fact not noted in the archives of the NFL. But Minnesota left guard Andy Maurer is left-handed, a fact the Steelers noted and of which they were able to take advantage. Maurer's left-handed stance enabled Holmes to get the penetration he needed to make the Odd 4-3 doubly effective.

Greene normally was the one on whom the Steelers relied to penetrate into the opponent's backfield. The right guard, in a right-handed stance, has most of his weight forward on his left foot. In this game, that restricted the movement needed to prevent Greene from slicing in between center and guard.

On the other side, however, a normally right-handed guard can execute the maneuver. This would have cut off Holmes from penetrating. A right-handed guard's weight would be mostly on his left foot and he could easily turn and stop a penetrating tackle like Holmes.

But Maurer was left-handed, used a left-handed stance, and thus his weight was mostly on his right foot. So the same advantage Greene had had on the other side was now available to Holmes against the Vikings' left guard. The Odd 4-3, the Steeler coaching staff believed, would be doubly effective against the Vikings.

They were right.

With Greene and Holmes lined up over Tingelhoff, guards Maurer and Ed White did not know what to expect. Their normal blocking patterns were confused.

"The way we figure it," says Perles, "is that the Odd 4-3 gives us an extra half a man."

Against a standard odd defense, the center will either help out with a tackle or go downfield for the middle linebacker. But with the threat of both Greene and Holmes coming over the center, neither of the guards nor the center could release to go after anybody else. They had to stay "home" and help out with the two tackles.

Both the Vikings and Raiders were thoroughly confused by the Odd 4-3. "Oakland was using a blackboard on the sidelines trying to figure out some way to stop us," Perles boasts.

A study of the Minnesota game films reveals that time and again either Greene or Holmes was springing scott-free in pursuit of either Tarkenton or a running back. And the times that the Vikes did manage to block both tackles effectively, then middle linebacker Jack Lambert was left unmolested and he would come up and make the play.

Lambert is the other man affected by the Odd 4-3. Oakland coach John Madden believed that the Steelers used the Odd 4-3 in order to "protect" Lambert, the rookie middle linebacker. Madden believed the Odd 4-3 covered up some deficiencies of the rookie defensive player of the year.

"No way," cried Perles, although the line coach did admit that the Odd 4-3 made Lambert's job easier. Lambert is protected by the Odd 4-3 because the alignment often results in no one blocking the middle linebacker.

The Odd 4-3 also had some pleasant side effects. The Odd 4-3 tends to play emotional havoc with the center. The Steelers were tops in the NFL in causing some 38 fumbles.

"Many of these fumbles came on the center-quarterback exchange," Perles says. "Any time you can create uncertainties in a basic area such as the center-quarterback exchange, you are destroying the very basis of the offense."

It wasn't too long ago that the NFL center didn't even have a man over his head since most teams always used the even alignment in their front fours. That was the day of the basic 4-3. Then came the odd fronts. "I could have played 10 more years if they hadn't put in odd fronts," says Steeler veteran center Ray Mansfield.

Now the Steelers' alignment may shorten the center's playing time even more. Pittsburgh has placed two men over the center's head which certainly must take something away from the concentration needed in the center-quarterback exchange. With two men on his head, the center now has a survival problem on his mind. Survival is a basic instinct; the center-quarterback exchange is not.

The Odd 4-3 was successful for the Steelers, but Perles warns: "Xs and Os don't win football games, although we coaches sometimes like to believe they do. Football is a game of emotions. I don't believe in this bunk that pro football players have ice water in their veins. My players allow their emotions to hang out on the football field. That's what makes a player successful. That's what makes the Odd 4-3 successful. The Odd 4-3 is just my players expressing their emotions."

L.C. Greenwood's nickname is Hollywood Bags because of his flashy dress. After Super Bowl IX, he may have acquired a new one—"The Rejector." At 6-6, Greenwood looks like a basketball player. In Super Bowl IX, he played like one.

The Steeler coaching staff had hoped L.C.'s height might cause some concern to Tarkenton who, when he rolls, usually rolls right, or to L.C.'s side. The staff had planned that L.C. might get in Tarkenton's way. But even the coaches were surprised that Greenwood was so effective, four times knocking the Scrambler's passes down before they got to the line of scrimmage (Fig. 2). One deflection ended up in the arms of Greene for an interception.

The secret to Greenwood's success was Tarkenton himself. True, the Viking quarterback is small, 6-0, compared to L.C.'s 6-6 frame. But Tark's style of play was the reason behind Greenwood's success.

The Scrambler achieved his name honestly. He's more elusive than a fly. But he doesn't play the game he once did. Tarkenton had been known to scramble not only to avoid the pass

Joe Greene confers with Steelers' defensive line coach George Perles, key man in the success of the Pittsburgh defense: the "Odd 4-3."

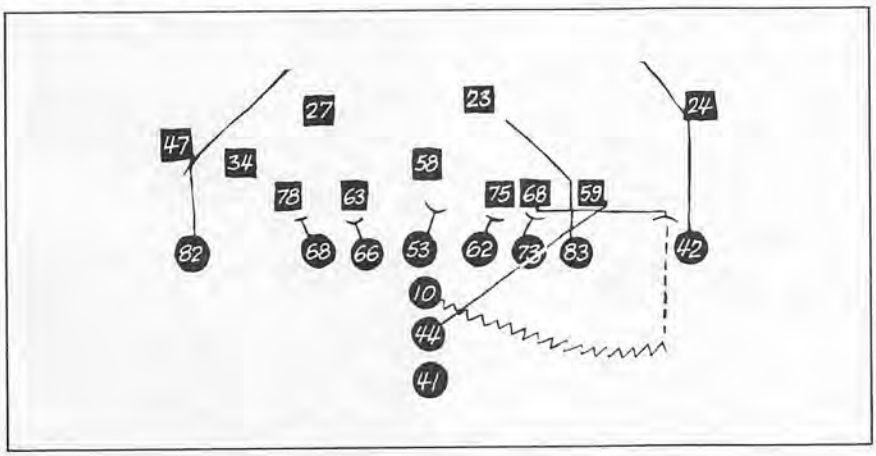


FIG. 2 Greenwood (68) Blocks Tarkenton's Pass

rush but to pick up valuable yardage. The Steeler coaching staff discovered that he doesn't anymore. The great equalizer, age, is catching up with the 34-year-old quarterback.

When Tarkenton scrambles now, nearly always it is only to avoid the rush. He seldom goes down field for yardage. He's no longer a true threat to run.

Defensive linemen have been chasing Tarkenton for years, seemingly never catching him. The Steelers figured: forget about chasing Tarkenton; let's just get in his way. Defensive linemen would for years frantically skirt up field attempting to contain Tarkenton. Not so with L.C. Greenwood's assignment was to allow Tarkenton to go anywhere he wanted. What L.C. did was to stay in front of the quarterback, obstructing his vision to the passing lanes. Then when Tark threw, L.C. jumped. The result was that L.C. turned Super Bowl IX into a basketball game.

Against Oakland a couple of weeks before the Super Bowl, the Steelers had used successfully several trap plays against the Raiders helping to pick up 224 yards rushing. The Steelers knew that Minnesota would be looking for those trap plays come Super Sunday. The Steelers also knew that Viking ends Carl Eller and Jim Marshall played the traps as well as or better than most ends in the NFL.

So, the stage was set for the Steelers' Counter 14 and 15 Special, a play that appears to be a trap but really isn't (Fig. 3). The Vikes fell for it time and time again. Hitting both sides from two different formations, the Steelers ran it eight times for 69 yards (8.6 per try). Franco scored on it, a nine-yard run around left end behind pulling right guard, Gerry Mullins, in the third quarter. The C-15 Special was strictly Franco's number to both sides.

The two times Franco didn't pick up yardage were when he slipped on the second play of the game and in the second half, when he fumbled the hand-off from Bradshaw and was grabbing for the ball as he fell through a big hole at the scrimmage line. Had Franco had control of the ball then, it seemed he was on the way to another big gain.

Mullins' open field blocking on the C-15 Special was something even a mildly interested fan could notice. But it was the block by running back Rocky Bleier that got the C-15 Special going places.

Here's how the play goes when run to the Steelers' left.

Right guard Mullins pulls left and is coming down the line on Marshall. The Viking end, reading the pulling guard, reacts by closing down hard on the guard, expecting to be trapped.

Marshall is surprised when he is ignored by Mullins. By then it's too late. Bleier, coming in on Marshall, has the perfect angle. Marshall is a sitting duck. The Rock comes down like an avalanche on the unsuspecting Marshall.

Mullins continues on his merry way, searching for right linebacker Wally Hilgenberg.

Franco first takes a stutter step to his right, hoping to hold MLB Jeff Siemon for a count, then comes back to his left taking the hand-off from Bradshaw. Franco, running under control, reads Bleier's block and travels accordingly. Should Marshall come up field, Bleier has the option to take him outside with Franco cutting in.

Left tackle Jon Kolb bumps tackle Alan Page and seals off middle linebacker Siemon. Left guard Jim Clack stays with Page.

On Franco's third quarter touchdown run, Kolb had to stay with Page longer than allowed but fortunately he and Clack drove the defensive end so far upfield that Page himself sealed off Siemon from making the play.

Hilgenberg was a sitting duck for Mullins who drove the right linebacker into the Tulane Stadium seats where he could have been charged for admission. Since it was second-and-nine, right cornerback Jackie Wallace was playing wide receiver John Stallworth for a pass and he took himself right out of the play, paying no attention to the run.

Minnesota free safety Paul Krause

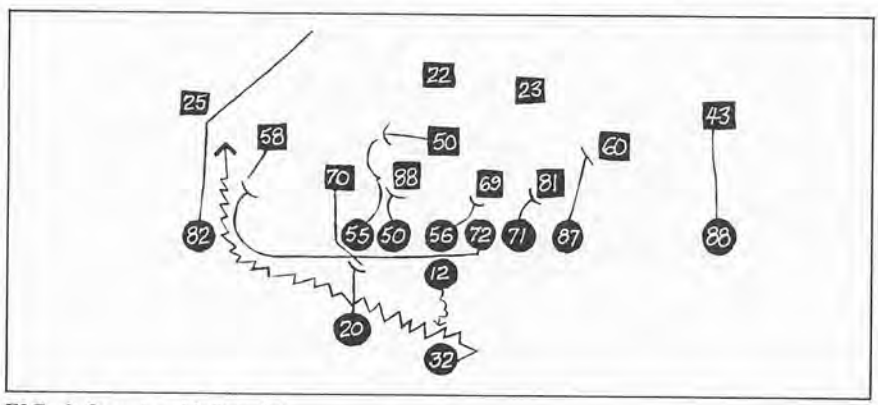


FIG. 3 Counter 15 Special

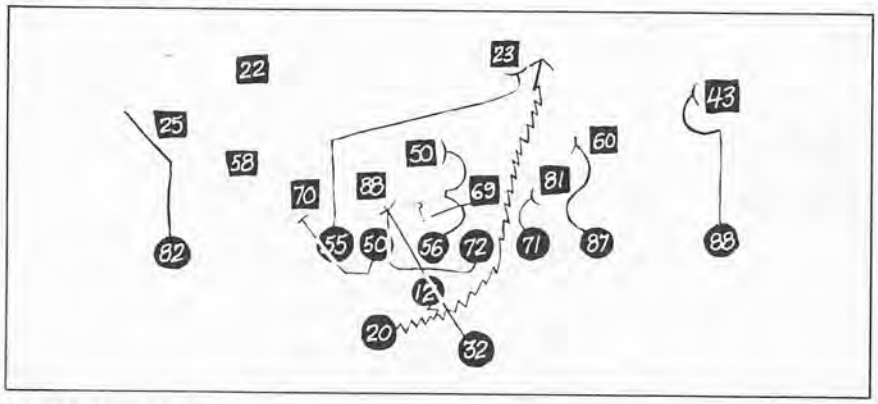


FIG. 4 Dive 34 Sucker

1. Fran Tarkenton slips a pass shot through Greenwood's attempted block. Time and again, Tarkenton was left in the lurch during a play.

2. This time, Greenwood smacks down Tarkenton's pass. Figure 2 shows movement of defense during play.

3. Harris made a nine-yard TD on this "Counter 15 Special" used in third quarter. Guard Mullins (72) clears path for Harris' sprint to TD (Fig. 3).

4. A big hole opens for Bleier (20) using the "Dive 34 Sucker" play (see Fig. 4). Defensive backfield coach Dick Hoak calls attention to fact that very little contact blocking is used in this action.

conveniently waited in the middle long enough to allow Franco to get outside and safely into the end zone.

Center Mansfield and the right side of the Steeler offensive line (Mullins excluded) just sealed off Doug Sutherland, Carl Eller and left linebacker Roy Winston.

The score was 9-6, it was the fourth quarter and the Vikes had momentum. They could still pull out a win despite the fact they had been badly outplayed. Bradshaw had just completed a crucial third-down, 30-yard pass to Larry Brown, but the Steelers found themselves with a second-and-15 situation on the Viking 33 several plays later on.

Rocky Bleier then rushed up the middle through a hole big enough to drive a truck through. He gained 17 for a first down and Pittsburgh was back in business. Six plays later on the drive Bradshaw hit Brown again, this time for the clinching touchdown.

Bleier gained those 17 yards on the Dive 34 Sucker (Fig. 4). "Watch that great blocking by the Steeler offensive line," the TV commentator commanded on the instant replay of Bleier's 17-yard gain.

"What blocking," laughs Steeler offensive backfield coach, Dick Hoak. "If you watch carefully, there is very little blocking on the play."

A sucker play, most coaches will tell you, is one you don't run often in a game. You don't because it makes someone look like a sucker and anyone knows those big guys who play the game don't like playing the part of a sucker.

On the D-34 Sucker, Viking left tackle Doug Sutherland is the sucker. The trick is to have Sutherland take himself out of the play. There is no Steeler assigned to blocking the left defensive tackle and left defensive tackle is exactly where Bleier is heading. The Steelers ran the play four times for 33 yards. Three times they ran it against Sutherland.

"You don't get suckered three times," Bleier pointed out. "But this was Sutherland's first Super Bowl start. He was trying too hard. He was being careful. He was reading his keys extra hard."

Sutherland must read his keys in order for the play to go. Steeler right guard Mullins, playing opposite Sutherland, pulls and traps Page. The center, Mansfield, takes a step towards Sutherland then heads up field to seal off the middle linebacker.

Sutherland, seeing Mullins pulling left, and seeing Mansfield blocking down, figures the play is going to the other side. So he closes down hard.

Steeler right tackle Gordon Gravelle has a tough assignment in sealing off left end Carl Eller. Tight end Larry Brown bumps Eller then seals off left linebacker Roy Winston.

Steeler left tackle Jon Kolb goes down field for the safety. Left guard Clack blocks down on Marshall. Franco goes underneath Bradshaw giving the appearance of an off-tackle trap to the left side.

This sets up Bleier to go over the top taking the hand-off from Bradshaw and heading right towards the hole he hopes Sutherland has vacated.

"It should have never worked three times," Bleier notes. "As soon as Sutherland feels that Mansfield isn't going to block him, he has got to figure something is up."

But Sutherland never did and later he was replaced in the game.

The Odd 4-3, Greenwood's strategy to stay in front of Tarkenton instead of chasing him, Franco's runs on the Counter 15 Special and Sutherland's falling for the Dive 34 Sucker, were just four of the reasons the Steelers won their first championship in 42 years, but they were four good ones.

2

3

4

TIMES PHOTO BY HARRY FRYE

"INSTANT REPLAY FOR THE FAN"

A fan coming home from the Super Bowl may bring with him a trunkful of souvenirs, including game programs and concession trinkets, but nowhere among his booty is a scorecard. Football doesn't have a scorecard.

This has been traditional in football for three quarters of a century. "The game is too complicated." "There isn't time to keep track of what's happening in football. In baseball you just make a couple of coded marks in a little square and you've got it." "No one ever has devised a football scorecard. I guess it just can't be done."

PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL disagrees. It can be done. Too many instances have occurred in which some fan in the stands will say, "How many passes has Bourgeois completed?" From a seat nearby, some fan with a pencil and some scratch paper will glance at his own scribblings and call back, "He's 8 for 15, 163 yards." The scribbler must have been keeping some sort of a play-by-play "scorecard" as a basis for his stats.

Let's say you're watching the Lions and the Raiders and somewhere in the second quarter the Lions take over on their own 20. Munson passes incomplete, Owens gains 6, Munson passes to Sanders for 13 and a first down, Altie Taylor picks up 4, Owens carries 5, fumbles, recovered by Villapiano of Oakland at the spot of the fumble. A fan might easily use a simple play-by-play system, employing the jersey numbers of the players, as follows:

DET
32-1-10-D20 P #19 inc.
33-2-10-D20 R #36 (6)
34-3-4-D26 P #19-#88 (13) FD
35-1-10-D39 R #42 (4)
36-2-6-D43 R #36 (5) Fum. Rec. by Oak (#41)
OAK
37-1-10-D48 Etc.

As the game on the field constantly becomes more sophisticated with each new season, so does the gung-ho fan become more sophisticated. Watching from the grandstand or watching in front of his TV set at home, he can become an expert scorekeeper by devising (or adapting) a simple system of notations for use on a steno notebook or a scorecard with columns. The current form, used in the pressbox, is shown on the next few pages. This could be the basis of the fans' system of scoring. Of course, the fan would need help. Someone would have to provide the official yardage gained or lost on each play, and would have to supply other pertinent official information. But that should not be difficult—just a matter of creating new habits.

The public address announcer would have to relay the official facts, as obtained from the official scorer. (In some NFL cities this is done now.) The new modern scoreboards would have to show a re-cap of each play (perhaps in the form above, perhaps in the form of the upcoming play-by-play pages). The TV directors would have to strip the scoreboard's re-cap along the bottom of the screen after each play, or create their own strip on a fast relay of information from the official scorer to the TV graphics man.

None of these modifications would become burdensome after they were established. As the cliché would say, "It might take a little getting used to," but it would soon be as easy for a football fan to read "#36 (6)" (Owens carried for 6 yards) as it is now for a baseball fan to read "SB-E2" (stolen base and an error, allowing the extra base, on a bad throw by the catcher).

Whether or not the scorecard idea catches on, PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL does recommend that the official play-by-plays include the following added features:

1. Show the proper designations of all full "times out."
2. Show the geographical direction faced by each team at the start of each half.
3. Show the holder on placekicks (FGs and PATs).
4. Show every change of QB, except when removed for a special team unit.
5. Always show player against whom penalty is called. Indicate whether penalty is from the spot of the foul or previous spot.
6. Number every play, with the opening kickoff as #1, and running all numbers, consecutively, regardless of what the play may be, throughout the game.

Meanwhile, the following pages show what the fan can create for himself, if he wishes, with added help from the scoreboard, the public address announcer and the television screen.

"FILE IT UNDER MEMORABLE MOMENTS"

SUPER BOWL IX PLAY-BY-PLAY

SUPER BOWL IX—GAME SUMMARY

January 12, 1975, 2:00 PM, CST
PITTSBURGH (AFC) vs. MINNESOTA (NFC) at NEW ORLEANS (Tulane Stadium)

WEATHER: Cloudy, cold. TEMP: 46°.WIND: North 17 MPH. REFEREE: Bernie Ulman. UMPIRE: Al Conway. LINE JUDGE: Bruce Alford. LINESMAN: Ed Marion. BACK JUDGE: Ray Douglas. FIELD JUDGE: Dick Dolack.

LINEUPS:

PITTSBURGH

Offense:

WR	Lewis
LT	Kolb
LG	Clack
C	Mansfield
RG	Mullins
RT	Gravelle
TE	Brown
WR	Shanklin
QB	Bradshaw
RB	Bleier
RB	Harris

Defense:

LE	Greenwood
LT	Greene
RT	Holmes
RE	White
LLB	Ham
MLB	Lambert
RLB	Russell
LCB	Thomas
RCB	Blount
LS	Wagner
RS	Edwards

SUBS:
Offense: Stallworth, Garrett, Swann, Reaves, Sam Davis, Webster, Druschel, Grossman, McMakin, Pearson, Harrison, Steve Davis.
Defense: Furness, Toews, C. Davis, Kellum, Bradley, Allen, Conn, Shell.
Kickers: Walden, Gerela.
Did Not Play: Wolf, Gilliam, Hanratty.

MINNESOTA

Offense:

WR	Lash
LT	Goodrum
LG	Maurer
C	Tingelhoff
RG	White
RT	Yary
TE	Voigt
WR	Gilliam
QB	Tarkenton
RB	Foreman
RB	Osborn

Defense:

LE	Eller
LT	Sutherland
RT	Page
RE	Marshall
LLB	Winston
MLB	Siemon
RLB	Hilgenberg
LCB	N. Wright
RCB	Wallace
LS	J. Wright
RS	Krause

SUBS:
Offense: McCullum, Alderman, Anderson, Sune, Lawson, Kingsriter, Craig, Reed, Marinaro, McClanahan, B. Brown.
Defense: Larsen, Lurtsema, Blair, Martin, McNeill, T. Brown, Poitl.
Did Not Play: Berry, Boone, Blahak, Riley, Holland.

TEAM STATISTICS

	PITT	MINN
FIRST DOWNS Rushing—Passing—Penalty	11-5-1	2-5-2
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	17	9
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-18	5-12
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YARDAGE	333	119
TOTAL NO. OFFENSIVE PLAYS	73	47
AVERAGE GAIN PER OFFENSIVE PLAY	4.6	2.5
NET RUSHING YARDAGE	249	17
TOTAL RUSHING PLAYS—Average Gain Per Rush	57-4.4	21-0.8
NET PASSING YARDAGE	84	102
GROSS YARDS GAINED PASSING	96	102
TIMES THROWN AND YDS LOST ATTEMPTING TO PASS	2-12	0-0
PASSES ATTEMPTED Completed—Had Intercepted	14-9-0	26-11-3
AVERAGE GAIN PER PASS PLAY	5.3	3.9
PUNTS Number—Average	7-34.7	6-37.2
FUMBLES Number—Lost	4-2	3-2
PENALTIES Number—Yards	8-122	4-18
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE	114	62
NUMBER AND YARDS PUNT RETURNS	5-36	4-12
NUMBER AND YARDS KICKOFF RETURNS	3-32	3-50
NUMBER AND YARDS INTERCEPTION RETURNS	3-46	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PITTSBURGH

RUSHING

	Att	NYG	Avg	LG	TD
Bleier	17	65	3.8	18	0
Harris	34	158	4.6	25	1
Bradshaw	5	33	6.6	17	0
Swann	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0
TOTALS	57	249	4.4	25	1

PASSING

	Att	PC	Yds	T/Yd	TD	LG	Int
Bradshaw	14	9	96	2/12	1	30	0

PASS RECEIVING

	PC	Yds	LG	TD
Lewis	1	12	12	0
Brown	3	49	30	1
Stallworth	3	24	22	0
Bleier	2	11	6	0
TOTALS	9	96	30	1

PUNTING

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg
Walden	7	243	34.7	52

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
Swann	3	0	34	17	0
Edwards	2	0	2	2	0
TOTALS	5	0	36	17	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	Lg	TD
Pearson	1	15	15	0
Harrison	2	17	17	0
TOTALS	3	32	17	0

FUMBLES

Walden—1 (Recovered own fumble, loss of 7 yards)
Bleier—1
Harris—2 (Recovered own fumble)

MINNESOTA

RUSHING

	Att	NYG	Avg	LG	TD
Osborn	8	-1	-0.1	2	0
Foreman	12	18	1.5	12	0
Tarkenton	1	0	0.0	0	0
TOTALS	21	17	0.8	12	0

PASSING

	Att	PC	Yds	T/Yd	TD	LG	Int
Tarkenton	26	11	102	0/0	0	28	3

PASS RECEIVING

	PC	Yds	LG	TD
Gilliam	1	16	16	0
Osborn	2	7	4	0
Foreman	5	50	17	0
Voigt	2	31	28	0
Reed	1	-2	-2	0
TOTALS	11	102	28	0

PUNTING

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg
Eischeid	6	223	37.2	42

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
McCullum	3	0	11	8	0
N. Wright	1	0	1	1	0
Wallace	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	1	12	6	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	Lg	TD
B. Brown	1	2	2	0
McCullum	1	26	26	0
McClanahan	1	22	22	0
TOTALS	3	50	26	0

FUMBLES

Tarkenton—1 (Recovered own fumble loss of 10 yards)
B. Brown—1
Foreman—1

PITTSBURGH	0	2	7	7	16
MINNESOTA	0	0	0	6	6

ATTENDANCE: 80,997 paid (1932 no-shows)
TIME OF GAME: 2:56

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Pittsburgh wins toss and receives.
Minnesota defends south goal.

FIRST QUARTER

Cox kicks off to Pearson at P22. Returns 15 yds (Martin)

PITTSBURGH (14:52)

1-10-P37	Bleier at LT (3) (Sutherland)
2-7-P40	Harris to the right, slips (-1) (Winston)
3-8-P39	Bradshaw sacked (-4) (Lurtsema)
4-12-P35	Walden punts (52) to M13. McCullum returns (5) (Bradley)

MINNESOTA (13:03)

1-10-M18	Pass: Tarkenton-Gilliam, right flat (16) FD (Wagner)
1-10-M34	Tarkenton pass to Voight, middle, incomplete (Lambert)
2-10-M34	Osborn at LG (1) (White)
3-9-M35	Tarkenton pass to Gilliam, right, incomplete (Thomas)
4-9-M35	Eischeid punts (40) to P25. Swann returns (17) (Kingsriter)

PITTSBURGH (11:52)

1-10-P42	Penalty:Illegal procedure (Pittsburgh) (5) (Mullins)
1-15-P37	Bleier at RG (18) FD (Krause)
1-10-M45	Harris at LG (4) (Page)
2-6-M41	Harris at right side (-3) (J. Wright). Penalty: clipping (Pittsburgh) (15)
2-21-P44	Pass: Bradshaw-Lewis, left flat (12) (Sutherland)
3-9-M44	Bradshaw sacked (-8) (Page)
4-17-P48	Walden punts (39) to M13. Wright returns (1) (Bradley)

MINNESOTA (9:17)

1-10-M14	Foreman at right side (-2) (Ham)
2-12-M12	Pass: Tarkenton-Osborn, right (4) (Ham)
3-8-M16	Tarkenton's attempted pass knocked down behind the line, incomplete (Greenwood)
4-8-M16	Eischeid punts (37) downed at P47 (Kingsriter). Penalty: clipping (Minnesota) (8 yds - half the distance) (McClanahan)
4-16-M8	Eischeid punts (36) to M44. Edwards attempts return (0) (Blair)

PITTSBURGH (7:21)

1-10-M44	Bradshaw's pass to Lewis, middle, incomplete (Wallace)
2-10-M44	Harris, draw, at middle (3) (Sutherland)
3-7-M41	Pass: Bradshaw-Brown, right (15) FD (Poltl)
1-10-M26	Bleier at left side (4) Hilgenberg)
2-6-M22	Harris at LG (2) (Siemon)
3-4-M20	Bradshaw's pass to Lewis, left, incomplete (Wallace)
4-4-M20	Gerela's FG attempt (37) wide to left, Walden holding.

MINNESOTA (4:32)

1-10-M20	Foreman at left side, slips (1) (Russell)
2-9-M21	Tarkenton's pass to Voight, under pressure, incomplete (Lambert). Penalty: Holding (Minnesota) refused by Pittsburgh.
3-9-M21	Tarkenton's pass to Gilliam, left, out of bounds, incomplete (Russell)
4-9-M21	Eischeid punts (31) downed at P48 (Wallace)

PITTSBURGH (3:37)

1-10-P48	Bleier at right side (4) (Siemon)
2-6-M48	Shanklin, on reverse, sweeps RE (0) (Wright). Penalty: offsides (Minnesota) (5)
2-1-M43	Harris at RT (14) FD (Marshall)
1-10-M29	Bradshaw runs right (11) FD (Wright)
1-10-M18	Harris at RG (0) (Sutherland)
2-10-M18	Harris at LG (2) (Page)
3-8-M16	Bradshaw's pass to Lewis, left end zone, broken up, incomplete (Wallace)
4-8-M16	Gerela, in FG attempt (33), gets bad snap. Holder Walden runs left (-7)

MINNESOTA (:32)

1-10-M23	Osborn at left side (0) (White), as quarter ends.

END OF FIRST QUARTER
MINNESOTA 0, PITTSBURGH 0

SECOND QUARTER

2-10-M23	Pass: Tarkenton-Foreman, right (12) FD (Wagner)
1-10-M35	Tarkenton's pass to Lash, right, deflected incomplete (Holmes)
2-10-M35	Osborn at LG (-1) (Holmes)
3-11-M34	Tarkenton's scramble pass to Gilliam, left, incomplete (Russell)
4-11-M34	Eischeid punts (38) to P28. Edwards returns (2). Penalty: clipping (Pittsburgh) (15)

PITTSBURGH (13:36)

1-10-P15	Harris at RE (5) (Siemon)
2-5-P20	Bradshaw's long pass, left, to Stallworth, broken up, incomplete (Wallace)
3-5-P20	Bradshaw's pass, middle, to Swann (16) nullified on penalty: offensive interference (10)
3-15-P10	Bleier at right side (8), fumbles, recovered by Minnesota (Poltl) on M24.

MINNESOTA (13:10)

1-10-P24	Osborn at left side (2) (Ham)
2-8-P22	Tarkenton's pass to Foreman, right, incomplete (Thomas)
3-8-P22	Tarkenton's pass to Foreman at the 5, overthrown, incomplete (Wagner)
4-8-P22	Cox's FG attempt (39) (Krause holding), wide to right.

PITTSBURGH (12:09)

1-10-P22	Bleier at left side (-1) (Siemon)
2-11-P21	Harris at RT (3) (Winston)
3-8-P24	Pass: Bradshaw-Stallworth, left (22) FD (Wallace)
1-10-P46	Bleier at RT (6) (Siemon)
2-4-M48	Harris at right side (2) (Sutherland)
3-2-M46	Bleier sweeps right (0) (Siemon, Winston)
4-2-M46	Walden punts (39) to M7. McCullum attempts return (0) (Shell)

MINNESOTA (7:56)

1-10-M7	Foreman at LT (3) (Russell)
2-7-M10	TARKENTON'S ATTEMPTED LATERAL TOSS TO OSBORN BECOMES A LOOSE BALL IN THE END ZONE. TARKENTON RECOVERS FOR A SAFETY (Lambert) (7:49 elapsed)

PITTSBURGH 2, MINNESOTA 0

Eischeid punts to P35, ball knocked out of bounds by Harrison, no return.

PITTSBURGH (7:01)

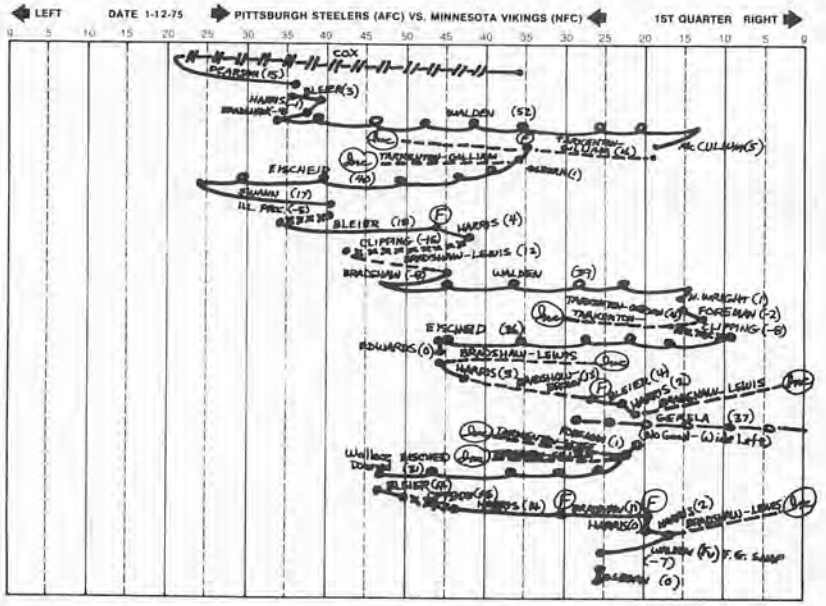
1-10-P35	Pass: Bradshaw-Bleier, right (5) (Winston)
2-5-P40	Harris at LE (2) (Hilgenberg)
3-3-P42	Pass: Bradshaw-Stallworth, screen left (-6) (Wallace)
4-9-P36	Walden punts (50) to M14. McCullum returns (6)(Garrett)

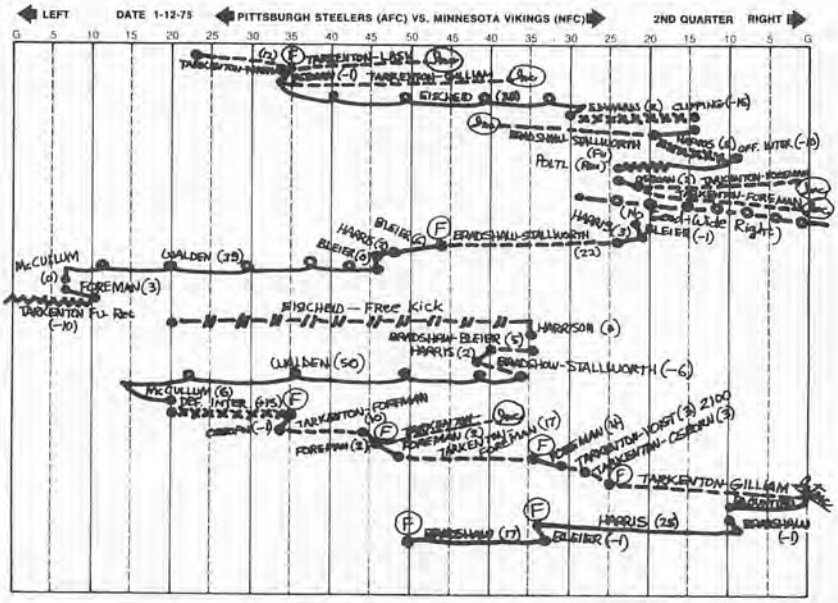
MINNESOTA (5:16)

1-10-M20	Tarkenton's pass to Gilliam, left, incomplete (Blount). Penalty interference (Pittsburgh) (15) FD
1-10-M35	Osborn at left side (-1) (White
2-11-M34	Pass.Tarkenton-Foreman (10) (Thomas)
3-1-M44	Foreman at middle (2) (Lambert)
1-10-M46	Tarkenton's pass, under pressure, out of bounds, right.
2-10-M46	Foreman at right side (2) (Lambert)
3-8-M48	Pass: Tarkenton-Foreman, middle (17) FD (Thomas)
1-10-P35	Foreman at right side (4) (Greenwood)
2-6-P31	(2:00) Pass: Tarkenton-Voight, right (3) (00B)(Thomas)
3-3-P28	(1:55) Pass: Tarkenton-Osborn, right (3) FD (Lambert)
1-10-P25	(1:17) Tarkenton's pass to Gilliam, middle, is knocked into the air, intercepted at goal (Blount) and returned (10).

PITTSBURGH (1:05)

1-10-P10	Bradshaw runs, right (-1) (Marshall)
2-11-P9	(:56) Harris, left side (25) FD (Krause)





1-10-P34 (:49) Bleier at RG (-1) (Siemon)
2-11-P33 (:27) Bradshaw runs right (17) FD (Page)

END OF FIRST HALF
PITTSBURGH 2, MINNESOTA 0

THIRD QUARTER

Minnesota receives. Pittsburgh defends north goal. Gerela kicks off to M28. Brown returns (2), fumbles, Kellum recovers for Pittsburgh on M30.

PITTSBURGH (14:49)
1-10-M30 Bleier at right side (0) (Eller)
2-10-M30 Harris at left side (24) FD (Sutherland)
1-G-M6 Harris at RE (-3) (Hilgenberg)
2-G-M9 HARRIS SWEEPS LE (9) FOR TD and FD.(1:35 elapsed) GERELA'S PAT IS GOOD, BUT RULED NO PLAY. GERELA'S SECOND TRY IS GOOD. (Pittsburgh drive: 30 yards, 4 plays) PITTSBURGH 9, MINNESOTA 0

Gerela kicks off to M2, McCullum returns (26) (Kellum)

MINNESOTA (13:15)
1-10M28 Osborn at RG (2) (Holmes)
2-8-M30 Foreman at right side (1) (Greene)
3-7-M31 Pass: Tarkenton-Foreman (6) (Russell)
4-1-M37 (11:50) Tarkenton tries long count. No play. Both teams ruled offsides.
4-1-M37 Eischeid punts (42) to P21. Swann returns (6) (J. Wright)

PITTSBURGH (11:16)
1-10-P27 Harris at right side, fumbles, recovers (9) (Page)
2-1-P36 Harris at RG (4) FD (Winston)
1-10-M48 Bradshaw, back to pass, runs right (5) (Page)
2-5-M43 Bradshaw runs, middle (1) (Page)
3-4-M42 Bleier at left side (0) (Eller)
4-4-M42 Walden punts (42) into EZ.

MINNESOTA (6:49)
1-10-M20 Foreman at left side (-1) (Russell)
2-11-M19 Tarkenton's pass deflected (Greenwood), caught by Tarkenton, who passes again to Gilliam, left, who gets to P40. Penalty: second forward pass on one play is illegal. Loss of down.
3-11-M19 Foreman at RG (12) FD (Toews)
1-10-M31 Osborn at right side (1) (Holmes)
2-9-M32 Osborn at left side (-5) (Greenwood)
3-14-M27 Pass: Tarkennon-Voight, right (28) FD (Edwards)
1-10-P45 Foreman at right side (-2) (Bradley)
2-12-P47 Tarkenton's pass, left, deflected, intercepted by Greene on P45 and returned (10). Penalty: clipping (Pittsburgh) (15)

PITTSBURGH (2:31)
1-10-P40 Harris at left side (6) (Krause)
2-4-P46 Harris at left side (0) (Page)
3-4-P46 Bradshaw's pass, left, intercepted (Siemon) on M49, returned (6) but play nullified. Penalty: offsides (Minnesota) (5) FD
1-10-M49 Harris at LG (1) (Hilgenberg)
2-9-M48 Harris sweeps LE (3) (Eller)

END OF THIRD QUARTER
PITTSBURGH 9, MINNESOTA 0

FOURTH QUARTER

3-6-M45 Bradshaw's pass, right, to Brown incomplete (T. Brown)
4-6-M45 WALDEN PUNTS (21). Fair catch (Wallace) at M24.

MINNESOTA (14:40)
1-10-M24 Pass: Tarkenton-Foreman, left (5) (Holmes)
2-5-M29 Foreman sweeps LE (0) (Blount)
3-5-M29 Tarkenton's pass to Foreman, middle, broken up (Edwards) incomplete.
4-5-M29 Eischeid punts (36) to P35. Swann returns (11) (Tingelhoff)

PITTSBURGH (13:05)
1-10-P46 Harris at left side (0), fumbles. Minnesota (Krause) recovers at P47.

MINNESOTA (12:59)
1-10-P47 Tarkenton's long pass to Gilliam incomplete, but interference called on Pittsburgh (Wagner) at P5 (42) FD
1-G-P5 Foreman at right side (-2), fumbles, Pittsburgh (Greene) recovers at P7.

PITTSBURGH (12:44)
1-10-P7 Harris at right side (8) (Eller)
2-2-P15 Harris at RE (0) (Siemon)
3-2-P15 Bleier at RG (0) (Page
4-2-P15 WALDEN'S PUNT BLOCKED BY BLAIR, RECOVERED IN EZ BY TERRY BROWN FOR TD. (4:27 elapsed) COX'S PAT ATTEMPT HITS LEFT UPRIGHT. NO GOOD. PITTSBURGH 9, MINNESOTA 6

Cox kicks off for Minnesota to P17. Returned (Harrison) (17) to P34 (McClanahan)

PITTSBURGH (10:18)
1-10-P34 Harris at RG (0) (Siemon)
2-10-P34 Harris at LT (8) (Eller)
3-2-P42 Pass: Bradshaw-L. Brown, right (30) FD (Wallace
1-10-M28 Bleier at RG (5) but penalty: illegal motion (Pittsburgh) (5)
1-15-M33 Bleier at LG (0) (Page
2-15-M33 Bleier at RT(17) FD (Krause)
1-10-M16 Harris at RG (4) (Eller)
2-6-M12 Harris at right side (1) (Winston)
3-5-M11 Pass: Bradshaw-Bleier, middle (6) FD (Krause)
1-G-M5 Harris at middle (2) (Siemon, Winston)
2-G-M3 Harris sweeps at LE (-1) (Siemon)
3-G-M4 (3:38) PASS: BRADSHAW-L. BROWN IN EZ FOR TD (BRADSHAW WAS RUNNING RIGHT), KRAUSE DEFENDING (11:29 elapsed). GERELA'S PAT IS GOOD. (Pittsburgh drive: 66 yards, 11 plays) PITTSBURGH 16, MINNESOTA 6

Gerela kicks off for Pittsburgh to M17. Returned (McClanahan) (22) (Allen)

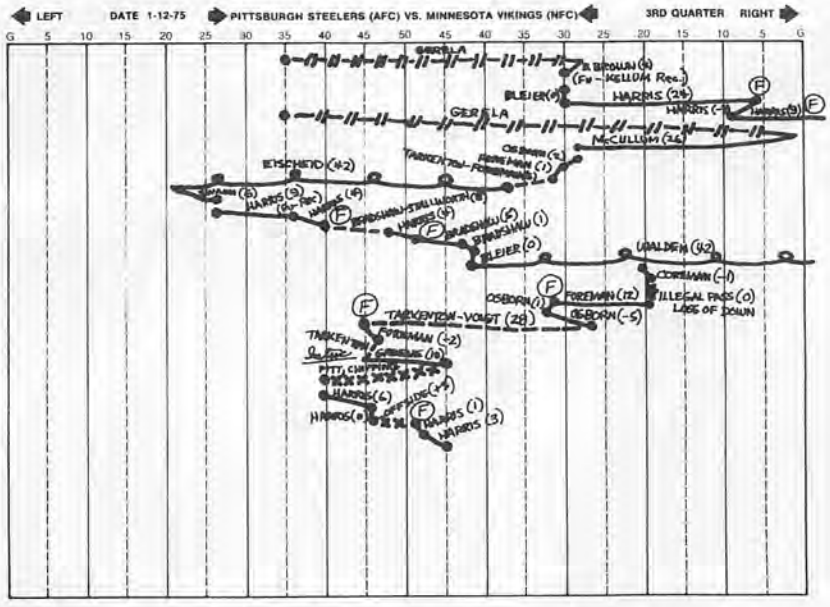
MINNESOTA (3:20)
1-10-M39 Tarkenton's pass to Gilliam, middle, intercepted by Pittsburgh (Wagner) at P33, returned (26) to M41 (Yary)

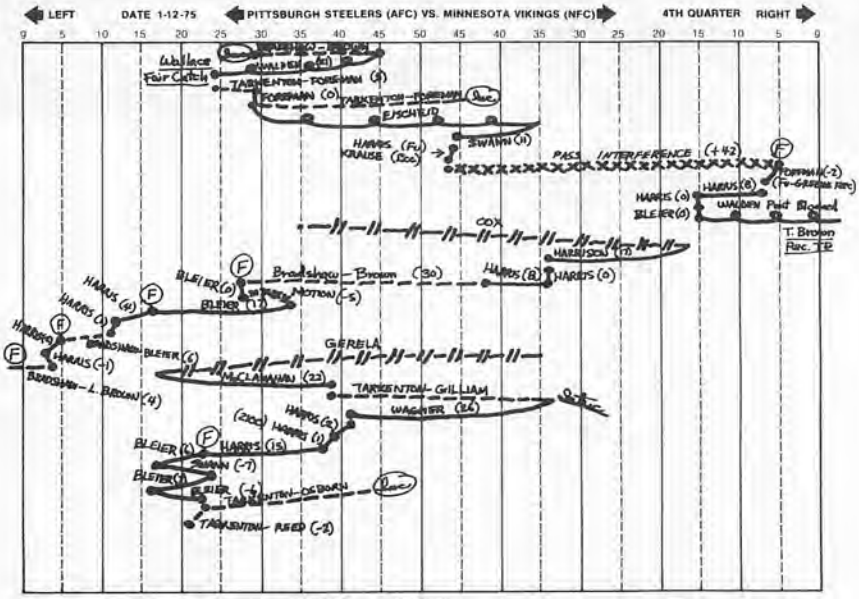
PITTSBURGH (3:07)
1-10-M41 Harris at left side (2) (Krause)
2-8-M39 Harris at LE (1) (Marshall)
3-7-M38 (2:00) Harris at right side (15) FD (Hilgenberg)
1-10-M23 (1:40) Bleier at RT (6) (Hilgenberg)
2-4-M17 (1:09) Swann, on reverse, sweeps RE (-7) (Eller)
3-11-M24 (:51) Bleier at right side (7) (Larsen) (Time Out: Minnesota)
4-4-M17 (:41) Bleier at left side (-6) (Marshall)

MINNESOTA (:37)
1-10-M23 Tarkenton's pass, right, to Osborn, deflected (Greenwood) incomplete.
2-10-M23 (:33) Pass: Tarkenton-Reed, swing left (-2) (Toews)

END OF GAME

FINAL SCORE: PITTSBURGH 16 MINNESOTA 6





(REPRINTED COURTESY NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

KEY TO CHART

KICKOFF -//-//-//-//-//-//
PUNT
FIELD GOAL -O-O-O-O-O-O
INTERCEPTION INTERC
RUSH RETURN
FIRST DOWN (F)
FUMBLE FU
RECOVERY REC.
PENALTY XXXXXXXXX
LOOSE BALL
INCOMPLETE (INC)
PASS

BALL POSSESSION AND DRIVE CHART

DATE: Sunday, January 12, 1975 AT: New Orleans, Louisiana VISITING TEAM: PITTSBURGH STEELERS vs. HOME TEAM: MINNESOTA VIKINGS

CHART FOR: PITTSBURGH STEELERS

NO.	Quarter	Time Ball Received	Time Ball Lost	Time Ball Held	How Ball Obtained	Yards if Returned	Start of Drive	Number Plays Held	Total Yards Gained	Yards in Penalty (+or-)	Net Drive Yards	Number 1st Downs	Where Ball Lost	HOW GIVEN UP: TD	FG	FG Missed	Punt	Punt Blocked	Intercpt. Pass	Fumble	Lost on Downs	Other
1	1	18:00	13:07	1:53	KO	15	P37	3	-2	—	-2	0	P35				52					
2	1	11:57	9:21	2:36	Punt	17	P42	4	26	-20	6	1	P48				39					
3	1	7:23	4:32	2:51	Punt	0	M44	6	24	—	24	1	M20			37						
4	1	3:38	0:32	3:06	Punt	—	P48	6	24	+5	29	2	M23								Fumble FG Att	
5	2	13:38	13:09	0:29	Punt	2-15 Pen.	P15	3	13	-10	3	0	P18							√		
6	2	12:09	7:58	4:11	Miss FG	—	P22	6	32	—	32	1	M46				39					
7	2	7:11	5:20	1:51	Free Kick	0	P35	3	1	—	1	0	P36				50					
8	2	1:10	0:00	1:10	Int. Pass	10	P10	4	40	—	40	2	50									End of Half
9	3	14:52	13:25	1:27	Fumble	—	M30	4	30	—	30	2	MGoal 9									
10	3	11:24	6:49	4:35	Punt	6	P27	7	31	—	31	2	M42				42					
11	3	2:35	14:48	2:47	Int. Pass	10-15 Pen.	P40	5	10	+5	15	1	M45				21					
12	4	13:10	12:59	0:11	Punt	11	P46	1	0	—	0	0	P46							√		
13	4	12:44	10:35	2:09	Fumble	—	P7	3	8	—	8	0	P15					√				
14	4	10:33	3:31	7:02	KO	17	P34	11	71	-5	66	4	MGoal 4									
15	4	3:15	0:37	2:38	Int. Pass	26	M41	7	18	—	18	1	M23								√	

TOTAL TIME OF BALL POSSESSION BY QUARTER: First **10:26** Second **7:41** Third **8:37** Fourth **12:12** TOTAL **38:56**

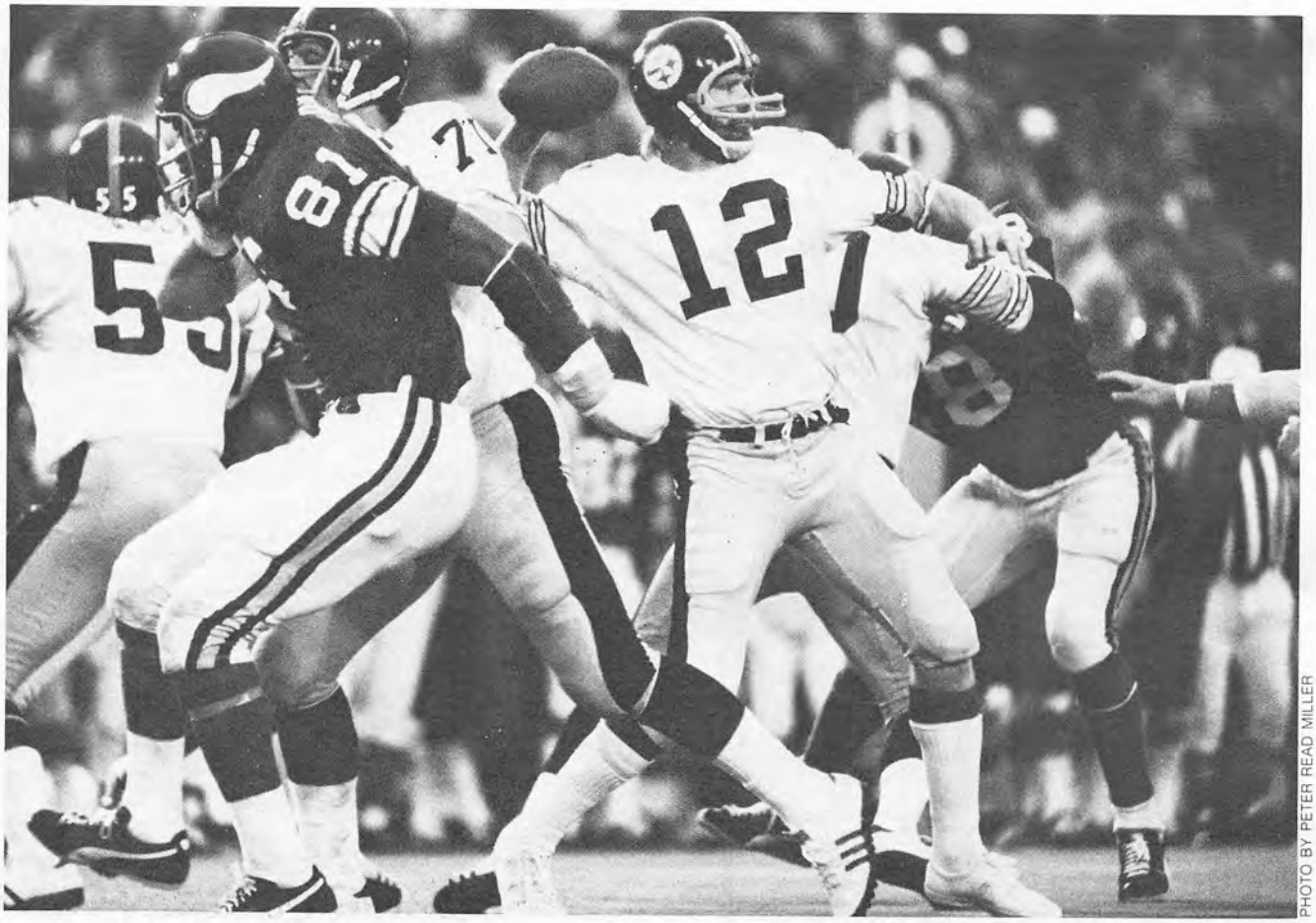


PHOTO BY PETER READ MILLER

BALL POSSESSION AND DRIVE CHART

DATE: Sunday, January 12, 1975 AT: New Orleans, Louisiana VISITING TEAM: PITTSBURGH STEELERS vs. HOME TEAM: MINNESOTA VIKINGS

CHART FOR: MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NO.	Quarter	Time Ball Received	Time Ball Lost	Time Ball Held	How Ball Obtained	Yards if Returned	Start of Drive	Number Plays Held	Total Yards Gained	Yards in Penalty (+or-)	Net Drive Yards	Number 1st Downs	Where Ball Lost	HOW GIVEN UP: TD	FG	FG Missed	Punt	Punt Blocked	Intercpt. Pass	Fumble	Lost on Downs	Other
1	1	13:07	11:57	1:10	Punt	5	M18	4	17	—	17	1	M35				40					
2	1	9:21	7:23	1:58	Punt	1	M14	3	2	-8	-6	0	M8				36					
3	1	4:32	3:38	0:54	Miss FG	—	M20	3	1	—	1	0	M21				31					
4	1	0:32	13:38	1:54	Downs	—	M23	5	11	—	11	1	M34				38					
5	2	13:09	12:09	1:00	Fumble	—	P24	3	2	—	2	0	P22			39						
6	2	7:58	7:11	0:47	Punt	0	M7	2	-7	—	-7	0	MGoal									Safety
7	2	5:20	1:10	4:10	Punt	6	M20	10	40	+15	55	4	P25						√			
8	3	15:00	14:52	0:08	KO	2	—	405-	—	—	—	—	M30							√		
9	3	13:25	11:24	2:01	KO	26	M28	3	9	—	9	0	M37				42					
10	3	6:49	2:35	4:14	Punt	—	M20	7	33	—	33	2	P47						√			
11	4	14:48	13:10	1:38	Punt	—	M24	3	5	—	5	0	M29				36					
12	4	12:59	12:44	0:15	Fumble	—	P47	1	-2	+42	40	1	P7							√		
13	4	10:35	10:33	0:02	Blkd. Punt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	PGoal	Blkd. Punt								
14	4	3:31	3:15	0:16	KO	22	M39	1	0	—	0	4050	M39						√			
15	4	0:37	0:00	0:37	Downs	—	M23	2	-2	—	-2	0	M21									End of Game

TOTAL TIME OF BALL POSSESSION BY QUARTER: First **4:34** Second **7:19** Third **6:23** Fourth **2:48** TOTAL **21:04**

"IT'S A FOUR-PART SAGA"

The source of information for the previous pages is a most personable gentleman from the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Don Smith (the Hall's Director of Public Relations), who doubles as task force leader of the 45-man Super Bowl press box information staff. Last year, on these pages, we paid tribute to Don for both his Super Bowl work and his exceedingly effective public relations efforts at the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

But last year's Hall of Fame weekend was not a pleasant one for the always-smiling Smith. The strike-that-fizzled had not yet pooped out in mid-summer, 1974, and the Hall of Fame game was played with rookies representing the Bills and Cardinals.

Oh, some of the league's stars were there, but they were carrying picket signs at the gates to the stadium. It was a strange sight, with members of actual trade unions, physically tiny by comparison, struggling with signs in support of the NFL players association, while NFL old-time players silently picketed the current veteran pickets. It was an unlikely collection of opposing viewpoints lining the uphill path to the gates.

One current veteran, a rather large individual, was speaking to the crowd as it filed through the gates. "Why do you want to see that game, lady? O.J. isn't playing with the Bills. You're paying O.J. prices to see guys you won't ever see again. We're the real NFL players. Aren't you going to support us?"

At that point, a distinguished middle-aged gentleman with considerable poise and a restrained voice, turned to the big guy and narrowed his eyes as he spoke. "When I paid for these tickets, I thought I was supporting the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Don't you want to be in it, some day?" At least for the moment, the badgering of spectators ceased.

When the then Vice President Gerald Ford spoke at the induction ceremonies, shouting pickets with anti-Ford signs (no football players were seen among these pickets) managed to hold their language to surface obscenities. They distracted, but did not stop the vice president's speech.

Before he was able to retreat to the comfort of his impressive new stadium press box, Smith sat through the acceptance speeches of the four 1974 inductees. Tony Canadeo, completely hiding his divisive perspective on the Green Bay management/coach situation, gave a stirring speech of acceptance, followed in kind by those of Bill George and Lou Groza. It remained for Night Train Lane to speak in tune with the negative mood of the day. As Lane, exercising his right to free speech, warned the NFL owners about the kind of point of view he expected them to take regarding a segment of NFL players, Smith knew it just wasn't the usual happy Hall of Fame weekend.

Perhaps this year, as Roosevelt Brown, George Connor, Dante Lavelli and Lenny Moore are inducted, those who visit "Football's Greatest Annual Weekend" will find themselves surrounded by lovers of the game who are there to express their appreciation for the traditions of pro football and to pay tribute to the outstanding contributions made to the game by Brown, Connor, Lavelli and Moore.

Don Smith and Hall Director Dick Gallagher hope their hospitable spot on the map will not again be used by so many as a ploy for polarization.

1975 HALL OF FAME ENSHRINEES

Roosevelt Brown—New York Giants
1953-1965—Tackle

George Connor—Chicago Bears
1948-1955—Tackle/Linebacker

Dante Lavelli—Cleveland Browns
1946-1956—Offensive End

Lenny Moore—Baltimore Colts
1956-1967—Flanker Running Back

"CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FOUR"

TODAY'S CLASS: "THE NEW FAN"

AAFC—All America Football Conference. A major league from 1946 through 1949, with franchises (for all or part of the four years) in Baltimore, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and San Francisco.

AFL—American Football League. An attempted major league which existed in one season only, 1926, with franchises in Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago Cleveland, Los Angeles, Newark, New York, Philadelphia and Rock Island. (Los Angeles was a road team only.)

AFL—American Football League. A minor league in 1936 and 1937, with franchises (for either or both years) in Boston, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Pittsburgh and Rochester.

AFL—American Football League. A minor league in 1940 and 1941, with franchises (for either or both years) in Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Milwaukee and New York.

AFL—American Football League. A major league from 1960 through 1969, before it merged with the NFL, with franchises (for all or part of the ten years) in Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Oakland and San Diego.

BACK JUDGE—A game official who is positioned in the defensive backfield and near the same sideline at which the line judge is stationed. Primarily, he watches the players' action in his specific geographical area.

CONVERSION—The point after touchdown. After each touchdown, the scoring team is permitted to try for an extra point by placing the ball on or behind the two-yard line, and snapping as if from scrimmage. The point may be earned either by scoring on a pass or run, or, more commonly, by placekicking the ball over the crossbar and between the uprights, following the snap.

DEFENDER—A back or linebacker on the defensive platoon who legally attempts to prevent a forward pass from being completed to a potential receiver in his area.

DRIVE—The action by which a team moves forward in a series of consecutive plays from scrimmage.

FIELD JUDGE—A game official who is positioned in the defensive backfield, and somewhat on the head linesman's side, laterally. Among other duties, he times the 30 seconds allowed for putting the ball in play and watches the action in his area.

FLAT—A potential pass receiving area. Generally located, it is that area representing the extension (to either sideline) of the line of scrimmage.

FREE SAFETY—A term usually interchangeable with "weak safety." In strict man-for-man pass defense, the free safety frequently finds himself "free" to roam and/or to assist the strong safety or corner backs in their assignments.

GAIN—The amount of yardage accomplished in the execution of a scrimmage play.

GRIDIRON—A turn-of-the-century nickname for a football field. In those days, the rules demanded that the ball carrier cross the line of scrimmage to either side of a 5-yard "no man's land." To more easily identify this area, lines five yards apart were marked from goal line to goal line as well as from sideline to sideline, dividing the field into a series of "squares," which brought about the nickname, "gridiron."

HEAD LINESMAN—A game official who is stationed at the sideline directly along the line of scrimmage. Among his many duties, he is in charge of the chain crew, looks for offsides and encroachments, and watches scrimmage line action at the snap.

INCOMPLETE—A forward pass, legally thrown, which is not legally caught, is called "incomplete."

INTENDED RECEIVER—The potential pass receiver, either an end or a back, to whom the passer is attempting to throw the ball.

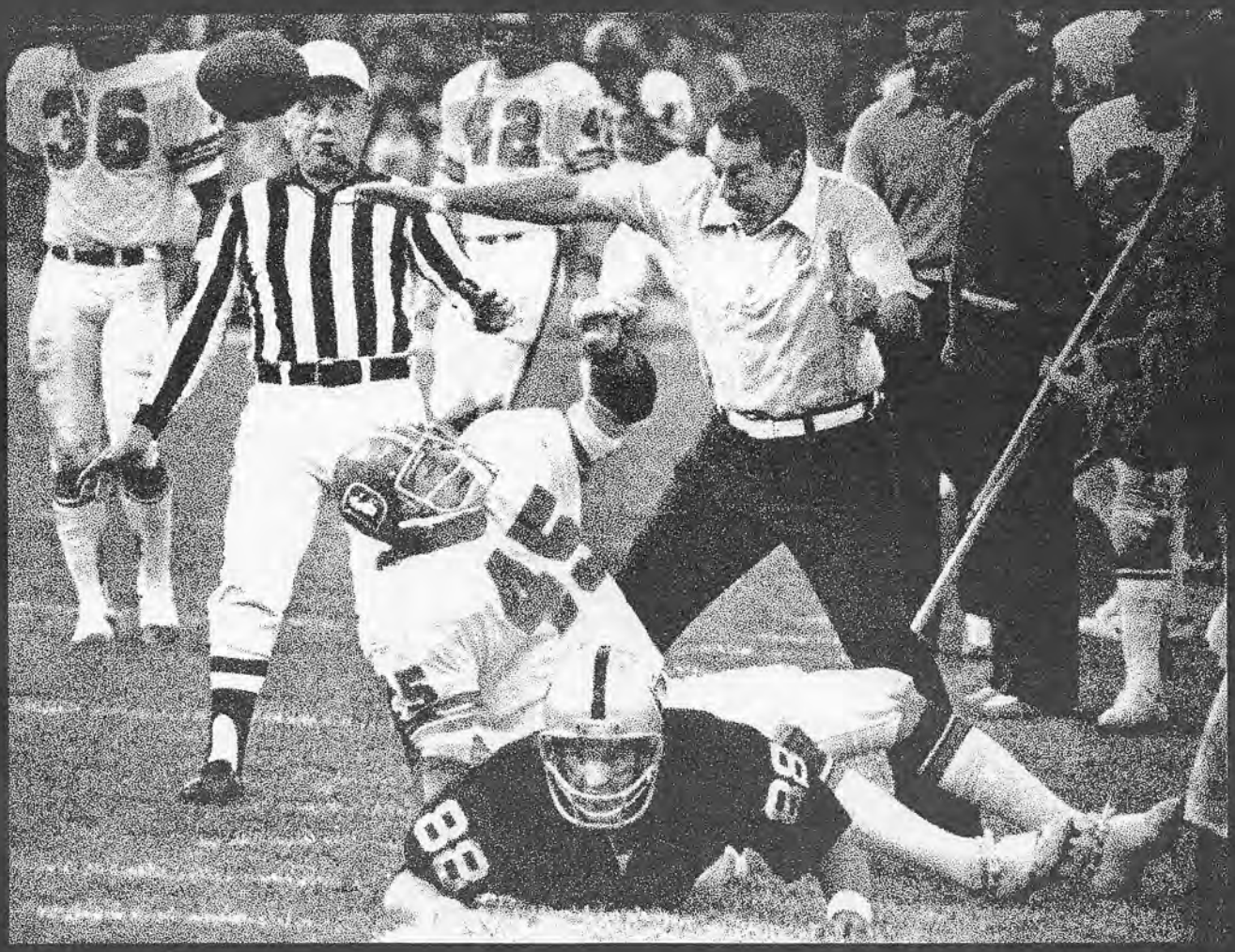
LINE JUDGE—A game official who is stationed on the line of scrimmage at the opposite sideline from the head linesman. He watches action along the line of scrimmage, and also he keeps the game's running time on a stopwatch as backup to the clock operator.

OOB—Out of bounds. If the ball, while in play, leaves the field of play, it is "out of bounds" and the clock stops.

REFEREE—The chief game official. He has general control of the conduct of the game and is the final authority on rules and rulings. He is stationed in the offensive backfield, usually behind and to the right of the potential dropback position of the passer and the standing position of the punter.

UMPIRE—A game official who is stationed in the defensive area, slightly to the right of the position of the ball and just a few yards back of the defensive line. He is responsible for observing equipment and for the action in his area.

SUBJECT: "TERMINOLOGY (4TH SESSION)"



HALL OF FAME PHOTO CONTEST
FIRST PLACE WINNER B&W FEATURE
BY BARRY STAVER, *DENVER POST*

TRY THESE DAFFYNITIONS ON FOR SIGHS:

In case the terminology overwhelms you, try these daffynitions on for sighs:

BALL IN FLIGHT—Party on the airliner.

DAVE CHAPPLE—For those who worship Dave.

STUNTING LINE—High wire for tight rope walkers.

RAY GUY—Man of sunshine.

OKIE DEFENSE—Sooner national guard.

JOHN PITTS—The real reason for the pitt stop.

LATERAL PASS—Getting fresh behind your back.

DOUG FRANCE—But didn't like Italy.

MOLLY McGEE—You must be fibbing!

GLENN LOTT—Secluded homesite.

40-YARD DASH—It goes with the 20-yard dot.

MIKE CURRENT—The electrical energy which passes through a microphone.

RICH UPCHURCH—Wealthy parish on the north side of town.

BUCK BUCHANAN—If you dare.

BOBBY BELL—The sound of a British cop.

STU O'DELL—Irish food in an Irish glen.

1776 AND 1492—Adjoining rooms on the 13th floor of the Warsaw Hilton.

ART SHELL—Semi-building protecting seascapes.

CROSS BLOCK—Part of an unhappy neighborhood.

EXCESS TIME OUT—Beyond the curfew.

LOS ANGELES RAMS—It's a pushy city.

"IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT"

If San Diego linebacker Floyd Rice had the nickname of "Skip," we'd have a perfect transition from the last daffynition (p. 163) to San Diego Chargers head coach Tommy Prothro, to whom this page is to be devoted.

For years carrying over 280 pounds and presenting a physical image which rhymed with Abelard, Tommy met rice for the first time during this past off-season. Not Floyd Rice, just plain rice, without gravy. For 50 days, rice was the main food on a strict diet which saw Prothro shed more than a pound a day. It was one of those "they said it couldn't be done" miracles. Faithful friends of Tommy Prothro didn't think it possible that Tommy could divest himself of his great love for cokes and gravy and a market basket full of other high calorie items.

"Lose weight? Tommy?" said one of his compatriots a year or so ago. "That would be like asking a 747 suddenly to be the cozy size of a DC9. There's no way."

Tommy is not a man of habitual physical exercise. Since his football days at Duke during the era of WW II, Tommy's exercise has been all mental. As some men enjoy a game of tennis, a few laps around the track, a spin on a bike, a round of golf or a brisk walk up into the foothills, Tommy has spent his spare time sitting in front of a bridge table, a chess set, a projector or a file of personally created charts, with rubber stamps to make his Xs and Os and a calculator to shorten his tasks.

But Tommy's accent on intake (and apathy toward burning up the calories taken in) has been noticed by worried friends and associates for some time. Finally, when San Diego newspaperman Jerry Magee called him "a walking heart case," Prothro began to become aware of the dangers of a poor ratio of intake-to-exercise, and of weight-to-age. When Chargers' owner Gene Klein strongly suggested that his overweight employee get rid of his penchant for cokes and about 50 pounds, Prothro voluntarily was introduced to a new daily companion, rice. Rice! Just rice. No gravy. No stroganoff. Just rice. No cokes. No beef. No regularly prepared vegetables. Just rice. And so little else that the non-rice tidbits hardly were worth walking up the hill to get to the Rice House.

All of this was at a special clinic at Duke University, Tommy's alma mater, where experts in handling the cardiovascular dangers of careless living were administering to Prothro and about 200 others simultaneously over the 50-day period. It's an ongoing program, and if Tommy is an example, the clinic does its job and does it well.

Tommy at least became accustomed to walking, his compromise with physical apathy, and he adhered to the rice menu as tenaciously as he sticks to a game-bid hand after running into signs of an unexpected cross-ruff.

After three weeks at the clinic, Tommy was permitted the luxury of gooey vegetables, twice a week, but only when cooked in distilled water to assure the salt-free approach so vital to a crash diet program. This was frustrating. Let's face it, a 280-pounder likes to eat, especially a man who is a night person, staying up well past the midnight hour through years of habit, and suddenly he is confronted with a 50-day, clinically-dictated 5:15 P.M. curfew on food.

If weight is the number one public enemy of the heart attack, and if the intake of addictive products is close behind, then Prothro is two-thirds of the way toward whatever safety street can be trod at our current level of expertise. Prothro now knows how to handle "overweight" and has managed to shed more than 50 pounds in his first effort. Also, he has abandoned cokes (not without misgivings, as he is a large shareholder in the company which manufactures it). The cigarettes still were a problem at publication time.

Perhaps Tommy will receive the kind of inspiration offered to one heavy smoker when he failed to quit on his first effort. A wise loved one said, after that first failure, "I'm disappointed in you, but I know you can make it."

The second effort was successful.

Sounds a little like the World Football League's self-appraisal after its disastrous opening year: We're disappointed in ourselves, but we know we can make it.

"PERHAPS EVEN A SECOND EFFORT"

HOW'S THE WFL DOING?

ONLY TIME WILL TELL
BY DON ANDERSEN

The World Football League kicked off its 1975 season with great optimism. The WFL is now peopled with stars. Playing in the league this season are Larry Csonka, Paul Warfield, Jim Kiick, John Gilliam, Ted Kwalick, Daryle Lamonica, Anthony Davis and Calvin Hill.

Average stadium seating capacity in the WFL this year is up to 49,000. The Philadelphia Bell has moved from antiquated J.F.K. Stadium to 60,000-seat, Astro-Turfed Franklin Field. Honolulu should finish construction of the Aloha Bowl, a new 50,000-seat facility, during the 1975 season.

The World Football League continues to set the pace in professional football in innovative thinking. Last year the action point proved the perfect solution to the problem of the humdrum extra point. Appropriately, the first World Bowl was decided by the margin of an action point, the only one scored in six attempts in Birmingham's 22-21 win. WFL backs are allowed to be in motion toward the line of scrimmage before the snap of the ball, a rule long in use in Canadian football where teams have only three downs to make 10 yards. WFL team nicknames again will spurn the traditional. How about the Jacksonville Express? The Portland Thunder, Shreveport Steamer, and the Hawaiians are others, not to mention the Southern California Sun and the Philadelphia Bell.

This season the 11 teams in the WFL are divided into two divisions:

EASTERN DIVISION
Birmingham Vulcans
Memphis Southmen
Charlotte Hornets
Philadelphia Bell
Jacksonville Express

WESTERN DIVISION
The Hawaiians
Southern California Sun
Portland Thunder
San Antonio Wings
Chicago Winds
Shreveport Steamer

You don't have to talk to many coaches in the WFL to get an idea where the strength of the league lies. It's nearly unanimous: Memphis.

Tom Fears, head coach of the Southern California Sun, says that "Memphis has a lot more material than the rest of us."

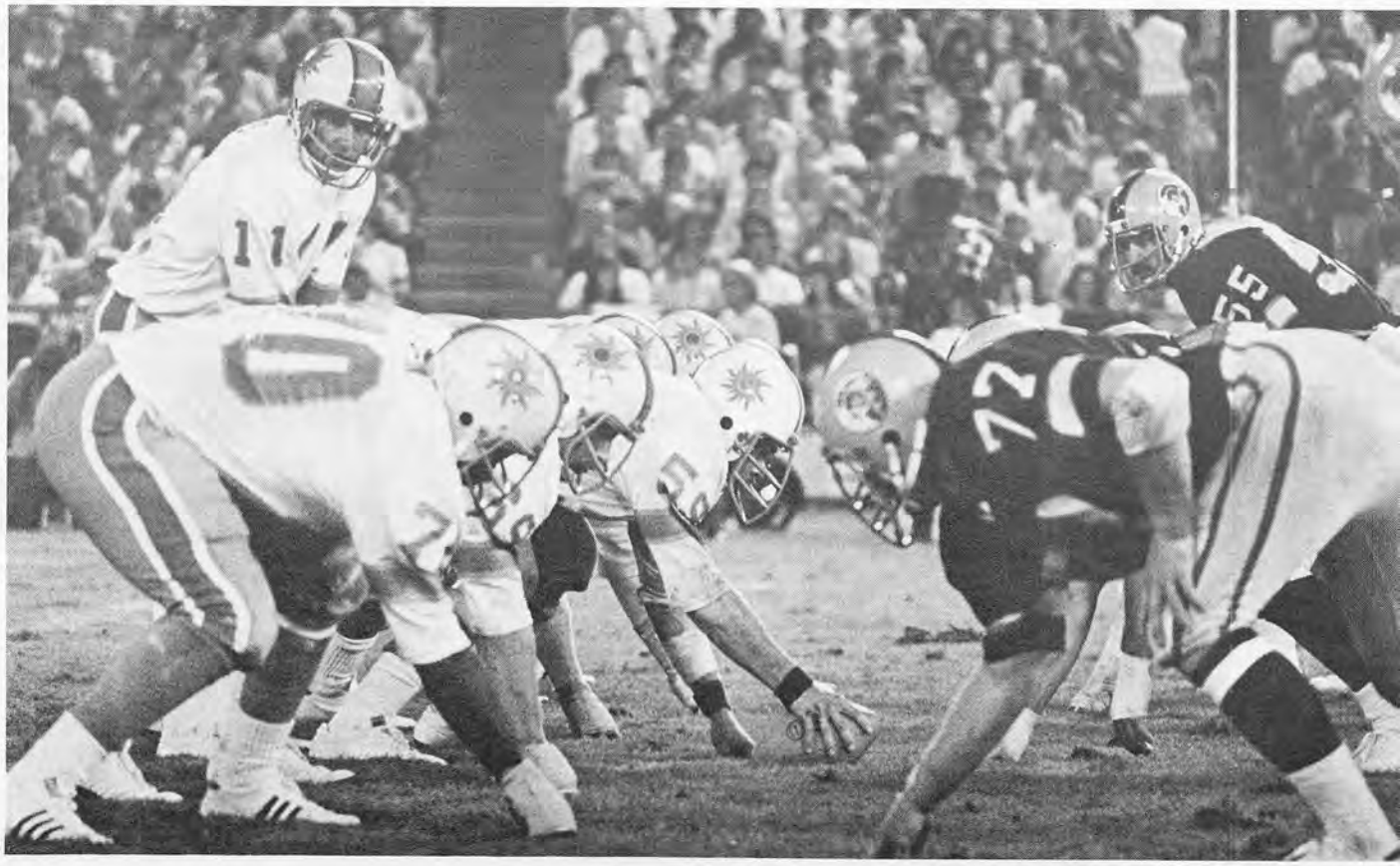
Marvin Bass of Birmingham says, "If we can stay with Memphis, we can stay with anyone."

Mike Giddings of the Hawaiians concurs. "Memphis is in a class by itself with Southern California and Birmingham a notch down."

Memphis, of course, has Csonka, Kiick and Warfield, but what people forget is that Memphis won 17 of 20 games a year ago *without* the Big Three.

John Huarte quarterbacks the Southmen and running backs J.J. Jennings (tri-MVP last year), Willie Spencer (15 touchdowns) and John Harvey (945 yards rushing) complement Csonka and Kiick nicely in the running back department.

Birmingham gives the Southmen the biggest challenge in the East. The Vulcans have Matthew Reed at quarter-



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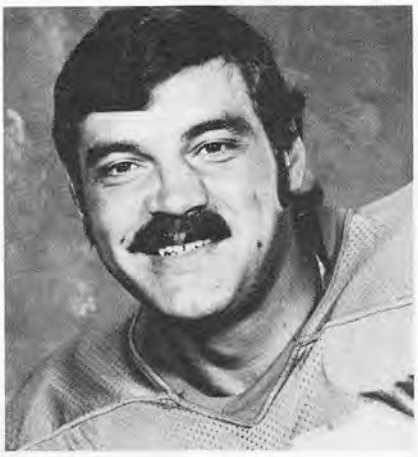

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1. California Sun quarterback Tony Adams calls signals against a stout Hawaiian defense unit. Suns have a nice stadium (Anaheim), good crowds.

2. USC star Anthony Davis signed with California Sun of World Football League for handsome salary and bonus.

3. Dolphins ground-gainer Larry Csonka will play '75 season for the WFL's Memphis, Tennessee franchise.

4. Dave Williams, California Sun wide receiver, brandishes touchdown toss.

5. WFL President Chris Hemmeter announces to media the signing of Larry Csonka and Calvin Hill.

6. Mark Kellar of WFL Chicago Fire wins a thrilling foot race against Jacksonville Sharks' defenders.

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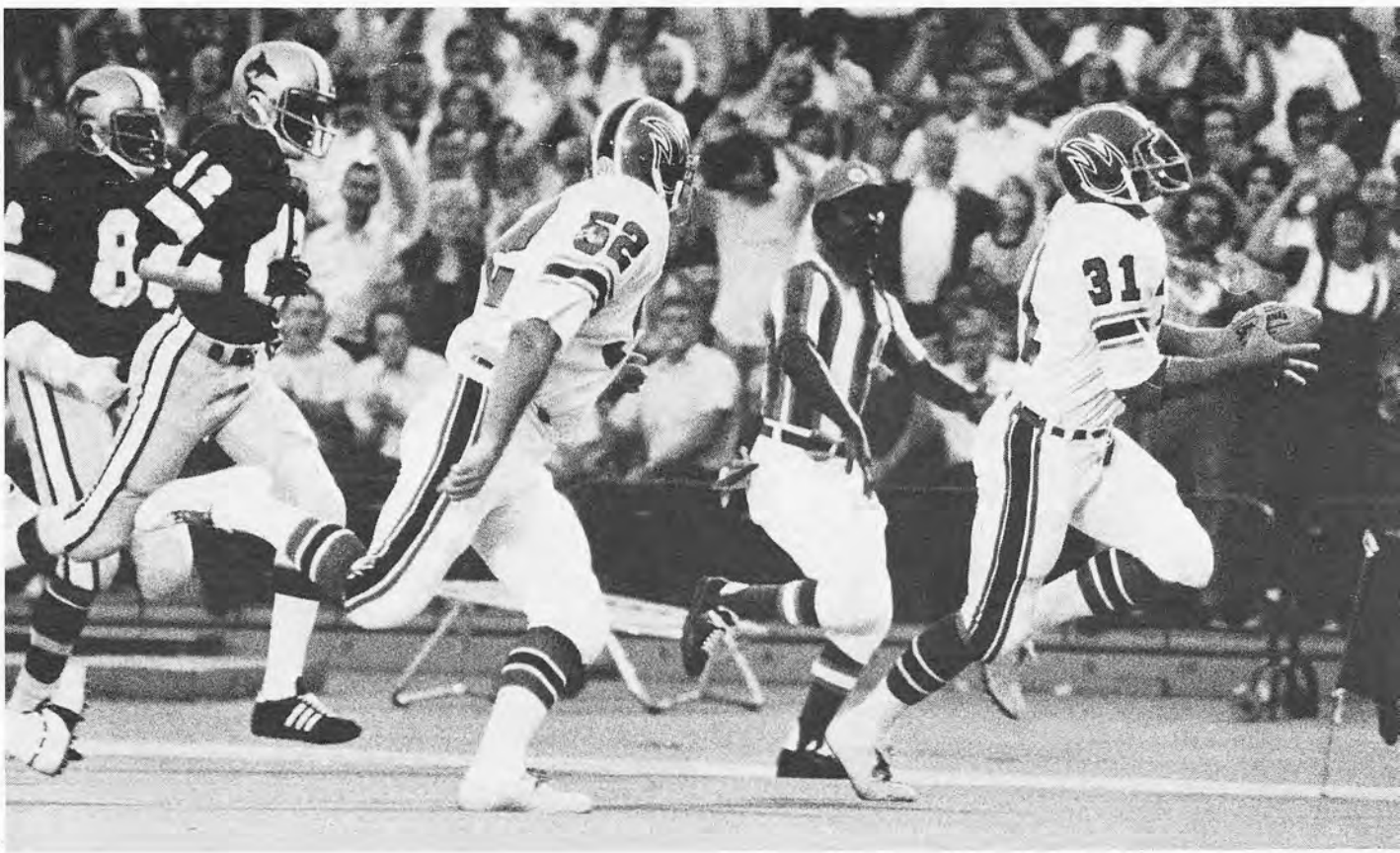

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HOW'S THE WFL DOING?

back instead of George Mira, who has been dealt to the Jacksonville Express.

"Reed gives us a quarterback with a terrific arm," says Bass. "He has great speed (4.6) for a big man (6-3), and he's strong and can take punishment."

Birmingham has signed 18 veterans from the first World Bowl championship team of a year ago.

In the West, Southern California builds around collegiate superstar Anthony Davis out of the University of Southern California where he broke O.J. Simpson's career records by rushing for 3724 yards and scoring 52 touchdowns (11 against Notre Dame).

Two-time AFC most valuable player Daryle Lamonica joins the Sun, too. The "Mad Bomber" has passed for more than 19,000 yards in his 12-year career and 164 touchdowns.

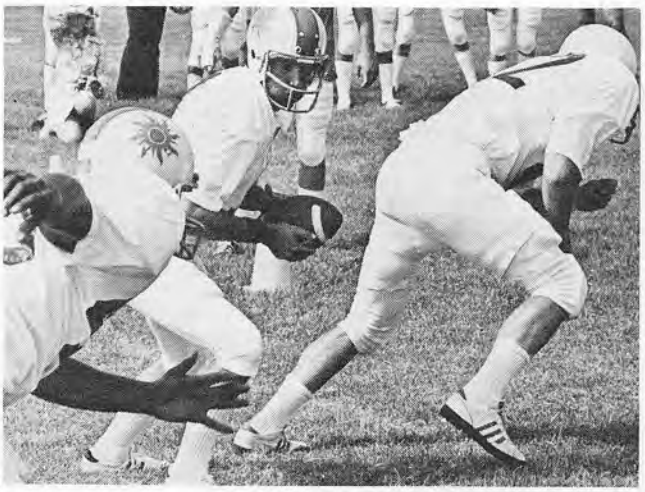
In Hawaii, Giddings builds his club around Hill, a six-year NFL veteran, who rushed for over 1000 yards in both the 1972 and 1973 seasons.

"Hill's presence improves our running attack tremendously," Giddings said recently. "We have a good football team."

1. Young Tony Adams, seen here during scrimmage, was named co-winner of WFL's Most Valuable Player Award.

2. California Sun defense stops the Portland Storm. Nearly made finals.

3. Shreveport Steamers proved to be an awesome foe for Sun in 1974 WFL contests. The 1975 season may be the turning point for the Sun and WFL.



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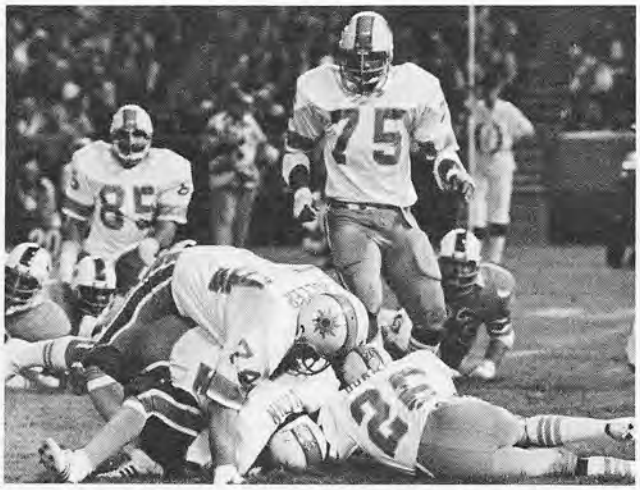

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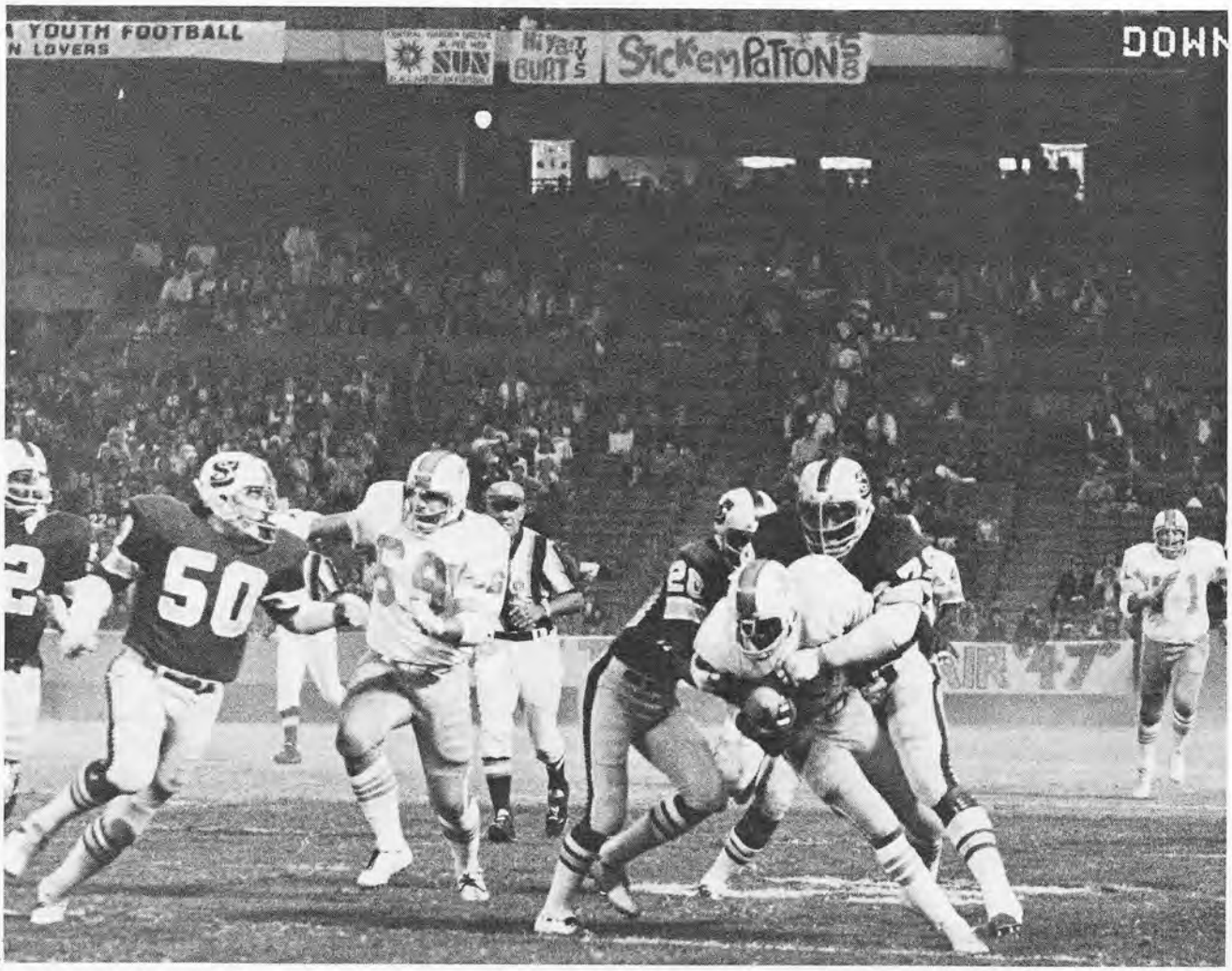

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1975 WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE

FIRST WEEK
July 5
*San Antonio at SoCal

SECOND WEEK
July 12
*Jacksonville at Chicago
*Charlotte at Hawaii
*Portland at Birmingham
July 14
*Memphis at SoCal

THIRD WEEK
July 19
*Chicago at Charlotte
*Memphis at San Antonio
*Birmingham at Shreveport
*SoCal at Philadelphia

FOURTH WEEK
July 26
*Hawaii at Jacksonville
*Memphis at Shreveport
Charlotte at San Antonio
July 27
*Philadelphia at Portland

FIFTH WEEK
August 2
Chicago at Birmingham
Hawaii at Philadelphia
Shreveport at San Antonio
Jacksonville at Memphis
August 3
Portland at SoCal

SIXTH WEEK
August 9
Chicago at Shreveport
Hawaii at Portland
SoCal at San Antonio
Philadelphia at Birmingham
Charlotte at Memphis

SEVENTH WEEK
August 16
Portland at Chicago
SoCal at Hawaii
San Antonio at Charlotte
Philadelphia at Shreveport
Birmingham at Jacksonville

EIGHTH WEEK
August 23
Chicago at Hawaii
Shreveport at Portland
San Antonio at Jacksonville
SoCal at Birmingham
Memphis at Philadelphia

NINTH WEEK
August 29
Philadelphia at SoCal
August 30
Chicago at Memphis
Portland at San Antonio
Shreveport at Birmingham
Charlotte at Jacksonville

TENTH WEEK
September 6
SoCal at Chicago
Memphis at Hawaii
Birmingham at Portland
Jacksonville at Shreveport
Philadelphia at Charlotte

ELEVENTH WEEK
September 13
Jacksonville at Hawaii
Portland at Philadelphia
September 14
San Antonio at Chicago
Shreveport at Memphis
Charlotte at SoCal

TWELFTH WEEK
September 20
SoCal at Shreveport
Philadelphia at Jacksonville
September 21
Hawaii at San Antonio
Memphis at Portland
Charlotte at Birmingham

THIRTEENTH WEEK
September 27
Chicago at Jacksonville
SoCal at Charlotte
September 28
Hawaii at Shreveport
Memphis at San Antonio

FOURTEENTH WEEK
October 4
Birmingham at Hawaii
Portland at Jacksonville
San Antonio at Philadelphia
October 5
Charlotte at Chicago
SoCal at Memphis

FIFTEENTH WEEK
October 11
Birmingham at Chicago
Philadelphia at Hawaii
October 12
San Antonio at Portland
Shreveport at SoCal
Jacksonville at Charlotte

SIXTEENTH WEEK
October 18
Hawaii at Chicago
Charlotte at Philadelphia
October 19
Jacksonville at Portland
San Antonio at Shreveport
Memphis at Birmingham

SEVENTEENTH WEEK
October 25
Hawaii at Charlotte
October 26
Chicago at Portland
Jacksonville at San Antonio
Birmingham at SoCal
Philadelphia at Memphis

EIGHTEENTH WEEK
November 1
SoCal at Jacksonville
Birmingham at Philadelphia
November 2
Chicago at San Antonio
Portland at Memphis
Shreveport at Charlotte

NINETEENTH WEEK
November 8
San Antonio at Hawaii
Memphis at Shreveport
November 9
Chicago at SoCal
Portland at Charlotte
Jacksonville at Birmingham

TWENTIETH WEEK
November 15
Memphis at Chicago
Shreveport at Philadelphia
November 16502 Portland at Hawaii
Jacksonville at SoCal
Birmingham at Charlotte

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK
November 22
Shreveport at Chicago
Birmingham at San Antonio
Jacksonville at Philadelphia
November 23
Hawaii at Memphis
SoCal at Portland

TWENTY-SECOND WEEK
November 29
Philadelphia at Chicago
Charlotte at Shreveport
November 30
Hawaii at SoCal
Birmingham at Memphis

TWENTY-THIRD WEEK
December 6
Hawaii at Birmingham
Portland at Shreveport
Philadelphia at Jacksonville
December 7
San Antonio at SoCal
Memphis at Charlotte

TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK
December 13
Chicago at Philadelphia
Shreveport at Hawaii
Charlotte at Portland
San Antonio at Birmingham
Memphis at Jacksonville

*Exhibition game

WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE
1974 FINAL STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
*Florida	14	6	0	.700	419	280
Charlotte	10	10	0	.500	467	350
Philadelphia	9	11	0	.421	493	413
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	258	358

Central Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
*Memphis	17	3	0	.850	629	365
Birmingham	15	5	0	.750	503	394
Chicago	7	13	0	.368	446	620
Detroit	1	13	0	.071	209	358

Western Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
*SoCal	13	7	0	.650	486	441
Hawaiians	9	11	0	.450	413	425
Portland	7	12	1	.375	264	426
Shreveport	7	12	1	.375	240	415

*Division Champion

"THE BATTLE IS FOR CREDIBILITY"

As the World Football League struggles for a stable image, perhaps even for survival, its critics are quick to contrast the league with the last organization successfully to compete with the NFL, which was the AFL from 1960-1969.

The American Football League of 1960 was the fifth rival loop to operate during the NFL's 55-year history, and the first to be successful. Efforts in the mid-'20s, mid-'30s and early-'40s all failed rather quickly. The All America Football Conference, which began in 1946, had everything going for it except sufficient financing, but did survive for four years.

The AAFC had the benefit of a large share of returning veterans from WW II, excellent talent which flooded the player market all at once, and as the Cleveland Browns were able to prove four years later, the caliber of play at the top of the league's standings was, indeed, comparable to that of the NFL. But when Los Angeles Dons owner Ben Lindheimer, with all his fiscal clout, was unable to save the whole league, it went under, with only a small handful of survivors.

The AFL of 1960 had many plus ingredients, three of which are primary in any contrast between it and the current WFL effort:

1) The AFL of 1960 mostly went into cities which wanted pro football, needed it and were large enough to support it. Two franchise shifts (Los Angeles to San Diego and Dallas to Kansas City) carried out this premise, also. The WFL began with 12 cities, but half of them (Chicago, Anaheim, New York, Philadelphia, Houston, Detroit) were bucking established NFL teams drawing on the same metropolitan area fans. Several of the other six cities were of questionable size.

2) The AFL of 1960 began playing its games in stadia comparable to the NFL stadia of that day. Since then, 23 of the 26 current NFL franchises (not including Miami, Baltimore and Cleveland) have become involved with much improved stadium facilities. Fans are attracted by good stadia (examples, attendances at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City; Buffalo, New England, etc.). The WFL, for the most part, is playing in stadia far below today's NFL standard either in attractiveness of edifice or in size.

3) The AFL of 1960 had as its leader one of the most capable, most respected and most liked men of integrity in sports, Lamar Hunt. He and his associates (keyed by Barron Hilton, Ralph Wilson, Bud Adams, others) were in no way going into an under-financed operation. They had the financial muscle to survive and basically operated within a framework of credibility in their dealings with the world. The WFL has not come up with a Lamar Hunt to lead it. And the league, with its franchises folding, shifting cities and facing the loan companies, has not been able to establish credibility as a basic framework of operation.

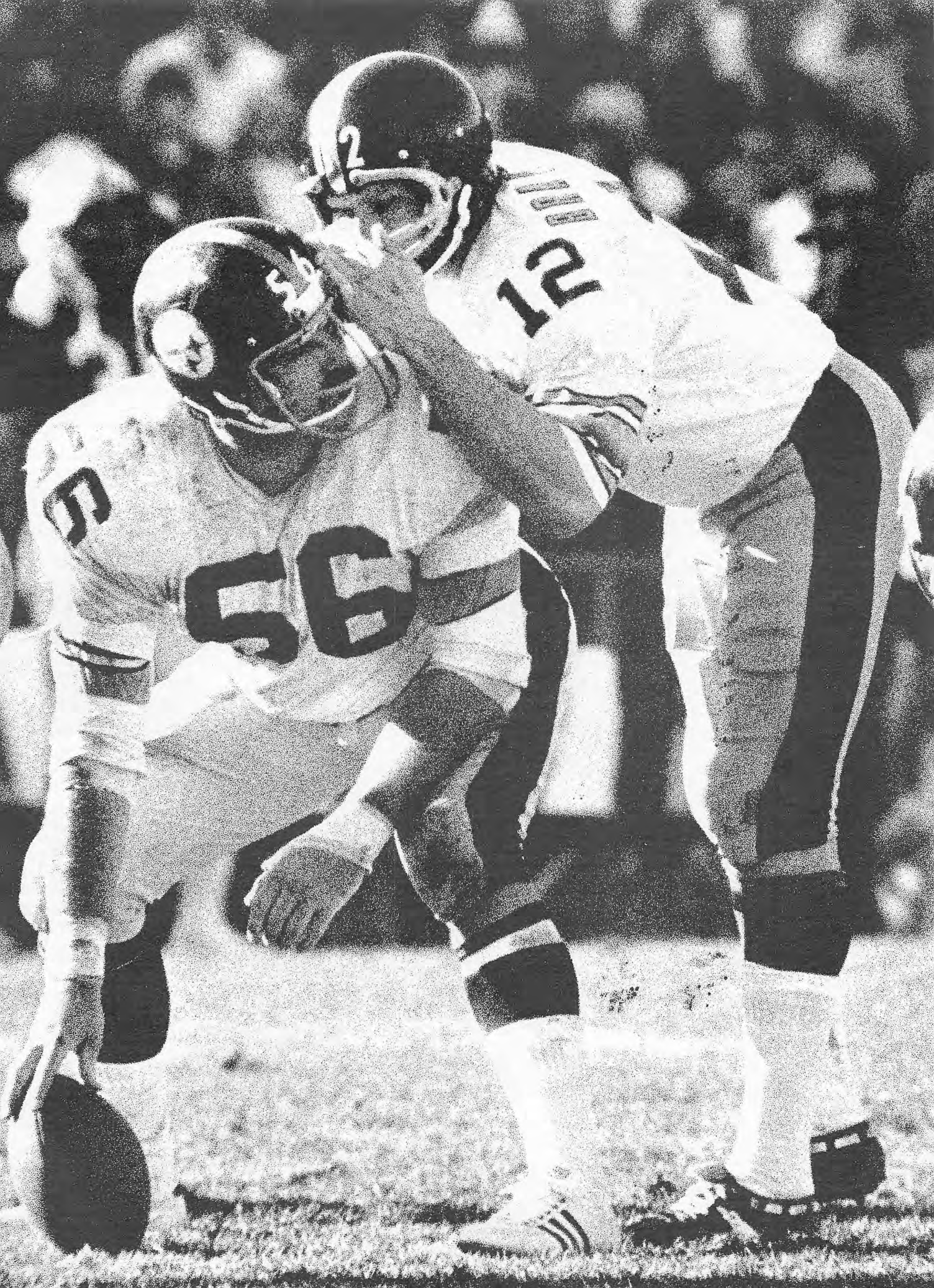
One long-time NFL executive said, "The thing that gets me is that the WFL is a perfect example of a basic wrong in our society's concept of fair play. If you or your neighbor fails to pay your phone bill or your water and power bill or your furniture bill, you find yourself without a phone, without lights and with an empty house. Yet, somehow, WFL teams are able to say to lawyers representing laundries, helmet makers, bus companies and so on, 'Gee, guys. We butched that one. We're sorry. Maybe we can pay you off something on the dollar. Meanwhile, we're going right ahead and try it again.' These are permissive times, and perhaps a new sports organization these days can just charge failure to lack of experience, while creditors sit back and watch them run up more bills for a new season."

We are not unaware of the existence of miracles, happening every day. Nor are we unaware of the sincerity of many in the WFL. But we do say it will take a miracle for the WFL to survive.

Meanwhile, north of the border, the CFL continues to fight the cold and hockey and some apathy and an internal lack of understanding of public relations, but, delightfully for Canadian fans, the CFL remains solvent, and continues to survive, offering exciting rules and intense rivalries.

"STABILITY IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL"

PHOTO BY PETER READ MILLER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CFL '75-A TIME OF UNREST

. . . BUT THAT'S ONLY BENEATH THE SURFACE

BY DICK BEDDOES

The Canadian Football League had its customary off-season of ferment—negotiations to sell the British Columbia Lions and Montreal Alouettes, the hiring of a Canadian-born head coach for the first time in 20 years, charges of assault brought against two Lions in off-field capers, contract hassles that involved breaking up the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, and a young Toronto Argonaut questioning American attitudes in the Canadian football game.

The Alouettes won the Grey Cup, symbol of national football supremacy, for the second time in four years but continued to play to haunted houses in Montreal. Their owner, Sam Berger, is a Canadian sportsman in the truest sense of that abused word. He invests his own money in professional sport without unnecessarily whining when he blows it.

That sets Mr. Berger apart from tinhorns in the CFL who want all the privileges and none of the fiscal responsibility. During the winter, Berger set $2 million as the price he'd take for the Montreal franchise. He did not receive any offers larger than $1 million, however.

At the same time, members of the B.C. Lions Society rejected a bid of $600,000 for the publicly-owned Vancouver club. Lion members, having stuck with the club through little thick and much thin for 20 years, allowed themselves to be romanced by Herb Capozzi, the club's former general manager. He tendered a bid of $600,000 to turn the Lions into a private enterprise.

The members, by a narrow margin, discarded the Capozzi scheme. His defeat was encouraged by Bill McEwen, president of the B.C. Lions and formerly part-owner of the Ottawa Rough Riders. McEwen had in hand a wired overture of $1 million from Harry Ornest in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Ornest was a director of the Lions before moving to California 13 years ago. He parlayed a career as a baseball umpire and hockey referee into substantial worth in the vending-machine business. As the Lions headed toward training camp, Ornest's offer to buy still stood.

Sam Berger, seeking to sell in Montreal, contacted Ornest. "Buy from me," Sam suggested.

"Not for $2 million," Ornest said.

"Well," Berger said, "thanks for indicating, by your B.C. bid, that a CFL franchise might be worth $1 million."

In Toronto, the Argonauts reached into an Ottawa high school to recruit their new dean of men. William Hodgson, the superfan presiding over the Toronto team, sought and got Russell Stanley Jackson, a super quarterback with Ottawa before retiring in 1969 to teach mathematics.

Jackson, born in Hamilton, rose to eminence in a league dominated by American quarterbacks, by Bernie Faloney in Hamilton, Jackie Parker in Edmonton, Sam Etcheverry in Montreal, Kenny Ploen in Winnipeg and Ron Lancaster in Regina. His retirement as a player followed back-to-back conquests of the Grey Cup by the Rough Riders in 1968 and 1969.

Canadian owners, since 1955, have exclusively hired Americans as head coaches. The last native-born coach, before Jackson, was Annis Stukus, who was released as ringmaster of the Lions in 1955.

Superfan Hodgson argued in favor of his Canadian choice. "Jackson was a splendid quarterback and good high school principal. He exhibited the discipline in both jobs to be the kind of take-charge man I want." Hodgson endorsed his selection by signing Jackson to a five-year contract, reported to exceed $50,000 a year.

One of Jackson's recruits is scheduled to be Garrett Hunsperger, a de-

fensive lineman obtained on waivers from B.C. The Lions waived Hunsperger goodbye, for a trivial $350, after he and a playmate acted like uncontrollable bums off the field.

The details were contained in the lead paragraph of a news dispatch from Vancouver on Jan. 29: "A British Columbia supreme court judge ordered two B.C. Lions football players to pay $19,500 in aggravated and exemplary damages for what he described as a 'savage' beating to staff and diners at two B.C. hotels in April and May, 1974."

The players were Hunsperger and Francis J. (Bud) Magrum, both United States imports. Mr. Justice A.A. Mackoff, noting that Hunsperger and Magrum each exceed six feet and weigh more than 250 pounds, wrote, "One is hard put to conceive of conduct more willful, insolent and outrageous than that of the defendants. These are two big, heavy, well-conditioned professional football players. They have been trained to inflict and take great physical punishment in a violent contact sport.

"Yet, without provocation and without justification, they inflicted a savage beating on men who by far are not their physical equals and by means which would not be tolerated even in the arenas of their professional activity . . . ."

Mr. Justice Mackoff spelled out some of the details. "At the Inn of the North, in Prince Rupert, B.C., on April 23, 1974, Hunsperger and Magrum assaulted the hotel's assistant manager, Ronald Porter. Porter asked Hunsperger and Magrum to wait for a table in the dining room. Hunsperger became very upset and made vile and obscene remarks at Porter, who is black. He then pushed Porter and, while Porter was stumbling backward, Hunsperger struck him and Porter went flying backward, striking and upsetting the nearest table at which people were having dinner. As Porter started to get up, Hunsperger hit him in the face. There is evidence that Hunsperger brought his knee into Porter's groin...."

Hunsperger clearly had an all-conquering campaign in 1974. He helped beat up three people in two B.C. hotels and, on the field, trampled opponents with sufficient vigor to merit selection as an all-star defensive end in the West.

John Barrow, general manager of the Argos, defended his decision to bring Hunsperger to the East. "We claimed him because he is a super football player. I haven't fixed myself up as a judge and jury."

In criminal action resulting from the charges, another B.C. judge sentenced Hunsperger to two months in jail. Hunsperger's appeal is pending. If the appeal fails, and he serves the sentence, he could later be deported to the U.S.

One of the staples of CFL humor is that the Hamilton management flings nickels around like manhole covers. Dissident players were outspoken before training camp began, charging general manager Ralph Sazio with pinch-penny tactics.

Typical was the reaction of Larry Brame, Hamilton's best linebacker last year. "All I want is what other good linebackers are making in Canada, but I can't get anywhere near it. When I told Sazio what I wanted, he got all upset."

The players' discontent was brought into focus by a salary survey conducted by the CFL Players Association. The result confirmed what many Hamilton players suspected: they are generally paid less than those employed by other CFL clubs.

Tony Gabriel, voted the outstanding Canadian-born player last season, asked to be traded or "play out my option." Gabriel earned $18,000 in 1974, has been offered about $20,000 in 1975 and insisted the raise was picayune.

Quarterback Don Jonas, obtained from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers last fall, retired to the broadcasting booth when it became apparent Hamilton would not pay him the $40,000 he expected as a player. Jonas has been hired to replace Russ Jackson as the color commentator on CFL telecasts.

Sazio stuck to his tough stance regarding salary disputes. "If the players don't like how we run things in Hamilton, they can play out their options and go elsewhere. Or, we'll trade 'em elsewhere."

Good as his word, Sazio discarded Brame and traded defensive back Al Brenner to Winnipeg. He was prepared to swap or release other complaining Ticats.

Sazio coached the Ticats to three Canadian titles in five years in the mid-'60s, but has been less successful

2

1. This CP Wirephoto shows Montreal Alouettes' running back Johnny Rodgers being interviewed prior to Grey Cup victory which his team won.

2. Canadian Football League Commissioner Jake Gaudar faces problems.

CFL '75-A TIME OF UNREST

as general manager. Since being elevated to the swivel chair in 1968, he has supervised only one Grey Cup triumph for the team.

And then there was Larry Uteck, a sophomore defensive back with Toronto who was groomed for the mercenaries at the University of Colorado. Uteck spent the first three months of 1975 as a tourist in the wretched southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. He did not disguise his revulsion at what he saw.

"Always, in Saigon or Phnom Penh, the Americans have to give you their bravura, their machismo."

Game plan. Blitz. Throw the bomb. "Is life, U.S. military style, mirroring football? Didn't Vince Lombardi and Richard Nixon talk in such terms?"

Lombardi decreed, "Winning isn't everything. It's the ONLY thing."

"That," said Larry Uteck, football player, "is sickness."

His last word summed up the ferment in the CFL as the league pointed toward its 1975 tournament. Players were questioning management on motives, finances and philosophy. Unrest continues.

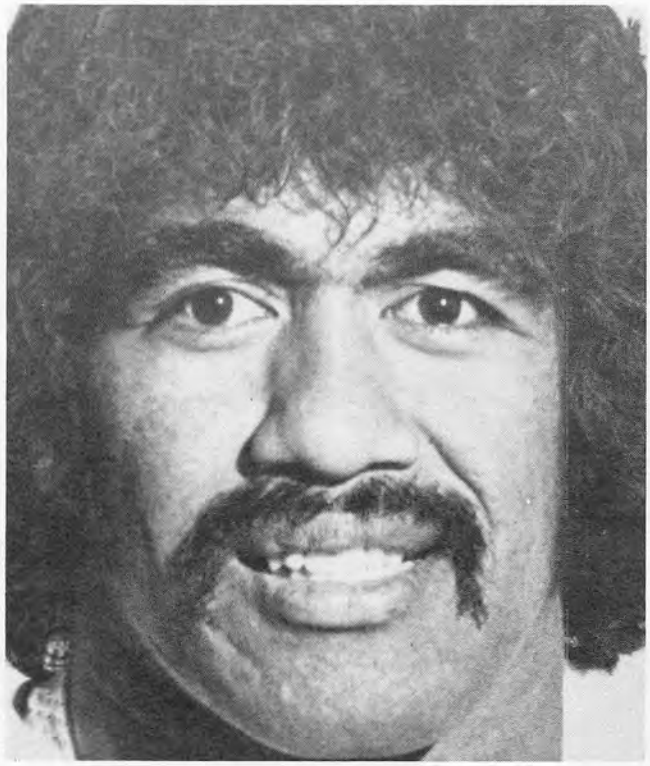
1. Best defensive player of CFL's Western Football Conference was John Helton of Calgary Stampeders.

2. Hamilton Tiger-Cats' general manager Ralph Sazio is in the thick of a player wage dispute.

3. Junior Ah You, DE of Grey Cup winning Alouettes, was CFL import from Arizona State University.

1

2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Gordon Judges

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE EASTERN CONFERENCE

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

In 1974 the Alouettes won their second Grey Cup in four years, an easy conquest of the Edmonton Eskimos, as equipped as any Canadian team to stand pat.

Coach Marv Levy did it with defense, the Als yielding the fewest rushing yards (1529) and the lowest average rush (4.0). Montreal conceded the fewest passing yards (2637), the lowest average gain on the pass (6.5 yards), and was the only CFL team to restrict opponents to less than 50 percent pass completions.

To maintain their defensive vigilance, the Als recruited linebacker Carl Winfrey (Wisconsin). He was All Big Ten before graduating to the Pittsburgh Steelers and Minnesota Vikings.

Another linebacker, Arnie Jones, came off the Ohio State campus. Jones and Winfrey join a linebacking brigade that includes returning veterans Chuck Zapiec, Mike Widger, Carl Crennel and Wally Buono.

The veteran Sonny Wade, coming back strongly in the Grey Cup championship, demonstrated he hadn't lost anything at quarterback that he hasn't found again.

To keep Wade sharp, however, the Als signed Hal Chealander, a pro-longed quarterback from Mississippi State. He played a little with the Bulldogs, graduated to the Los Angeles Rams, was cut, turned semi-pro and was outstanding with the California Razorbacks. That was in 1973. Last year, signed as a free agent by the Minnesota Vikings, Chealander survived with the Super Bowl runners-up until mid-season. If Chealander makes it in Canada, he will be one of the few German-born players in the CFL. He was born in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Frank Pomarico, a swift offensive guard, arrives in Montreal after a lack of height handicapped his pro chances with the Kansas City Chiefs. He is an inch over six feet and 248 pounds. Pomarico was offensive captain at Notre Dame in 1973, prominent when the undefeated Fighting Irish beat Alabama, 24-23, in the Sugar Bowl.

Another offensive guard, Jerry Myatt, is a San Diego State graduate. He had a brief trial last year with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Joe Petty was signed as a wide receiver from Arizona State. The Als are partial to Arizona State products, having obtained the willing, grinning, hard-hitting Junior Ah You from that school. Ah You is now a marauding defensive end with all-star credentials.

Two American running backs, Wayne Moseley and Carlester Crumpler, may add zip to the Montreal attack. Moseley, out of Alabama A&M, lasted with the Buffalo Bills until halfway through last season. Crumpler crumpled enemy lines on behalf of East Carolina. He arrives in Canada as the all-time East Carolina and Southern Conference rushing leader—2889 yards, 658 carries, 222 points. The Bills drafted him fourth in 1974, but did not keep him.

The Montreal mail, though, will again be carried by Steve Ferrughelli, as it was in 1973 and 1974. In 16 games last season, the burly Rutgers alumnus rolled up 1134 yards on 228 carries, exactly five yards per carry.

Montreal's intimidating defensive front again will be stacked with Gordon Judges, a 250-pound defensive end from Toronto, and Joe Critchlow, a former Winnipeg Blue Bomber.

Wade, finishing a two-year contract, expects to share quarterback chores again with Jimmy Jones. The versatile Dave Lewis (Stanford) can play quarterback, offensive halfback, flanker, linebacker and defensive halfback. In a pinch, Lewis also punts.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Ah You, J.	DE	6-3	220	27	Arizona State
Bonnett, P.	G	6-3	230	24	Idaho State
Braggins, D.	G	6-2	245	30	Florida State
Buono, W.	LB	5-11	205	25	Idaho State
Chown, G.	LB	6-0	235	24	Bishop's
Conrad, W.	C	6-0	235	29	Calgary
Crennell, C.	LB	6-1	245	27	W. Va.
Critchlow, J.	DT	6-1	232	31	S.E. Mo.
Dalla Riva, P.	TE	6-3	225	29	Oakville
Eaman, S.	RB	5-10	200	27	Queen's
Edgson, A.	DB	5-10	185	25	Idaho State
Ferrughelli, S.	RB	6-2	235	26	Rutgers
Florio, R.	RB	5-10	200	25	Youngstown State
Gaines, G.	DB	5-11	185	34	UCLA
Harris, D.	DB	5-11	170	25	Southern Carolina
Jones, J.	QB	6-1	195	25	Southern California
Judges, G.	DT	6-3	250	28	–
Mofford, Ian	WR	5-9	180	22	–
Price, P.	DB	6-1	195	26	Idaho State
Proudfoot, T.	DB	6-3	195	26	New Brunswick
Randall, B.	OT	6-3	245	31	Eastern Washington
Rodgers, J.	RB	5-9	175	24	Nebraska
Sherrer, L.	RB	6-2	205	25	Hawaii
Smith, Doug	G	6-1	235	23	Wilfrid Laurier
Smith, L.	RB	6-0	210	24	Bishop's
Smith, W.	DB	6-10	180	28	Boise State
Sweet, D.	K	6-1	190	27	Washington State
Wade, S.	QB	6-3	210	27	W. Va.
Watrin, Ray	G	6-2	240	30	Utah State
Weir, G.	DT	6-2	260	24	–
Widger, M.	LB	6-0	210	27	VPI
Yochum, D.	OT	6-5	265	25	Syracuse
Zapiec, C.	LB	6-2	200	25	Penn State
Zumbach, J.	DE	6-3	245	25	Colorado

HEAD COACH—Marv Levy

Dick Adams

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

Jerry Keeling and Rick Cassata combined to quarterback the Rough Riders to the Grey Cup in 1973. Keeling previously had led the Calgary Stampeders to the Canadian championship in 1971.

But David Loeb, the corner-store grocer who owns the Ottawa club, was unimpressed with their guidance of the Riders to a second-place finish last fall. "If I had to pay to watch them," Loeb said, "I wouldn't buy a ticket."

Loeb's candor inspired general manager Francis Clair to recruit two prominent U.S. rookies for the key QB position in the sport—Condredge Holloway from Tennessee and Tom Clements from Notre Dame. Clements made All-America and was fourth in the voting for the Heisman Trophy as the most valuble collegian extant. He completed 122 passes for 1549 yards in 1974. Holloway was an All-America choice in 1973 and a 12th draft pick of the New England Patriots after 1974. He was chosen the most valuable performer in the 1974 Hula Bowl.

During Holloway's scrambling years at Tennessee, the Volunteers won 25 games, lost nine, tied two and played in three postseason bowl games. He had a disappointing season as a senior in 1974, injured in the thigh and shoulder in the Vols' first game, a 17-17 tie with UCLA.

The Riders released Cassata but retained the 37-year-old Keeling as a third quarterback.

Having acquired new pitchers, Ottawa went after new catchers to pitch to. Curtis J. Leak came from Central Piedmont Community College, Ben Kinnard from Maryland University.

Kinnard, as a kid, was an unusual hardship case. When he completed high school in Baltimore, the Maryland State Legislature passed an unprecedented bill to provide funds to insure he would not be recruited by any university outside Maryland. The honor student graduates to Ottawa as a receiver who also can throw.

Recruits for line play include defensive tackle Carl Devorce (Oklahoma State), offensive tackle Stephen Neece (Notre Dame), offensive tackle Joe Miller (Villanova), offensive guard John Givens (Villanova), linebacker Dominic Riggio (Western Michigan) and Joe Townsend, a 270-pound offensive tackle who did not attend college. Townsend spent the last three seasons with the semi-pro Madison Mustangs in Wisconsin.

Defensive tackie Bruce Smith, a rangy alumnus of Colorado, was obtained in a trade with the Edmonton Eskimos. In one-for-one bartering, Ottawa sent Tom Laputka to Edmonton.

Held over, signed to a multi-year pact, is Dick Adams, among the most versatile players in the Eastern Conference. Adams was All-East and All-Canada as a defensive back in 1974, but his contributions included punting and returning punts. The Miami of Ohio product returned 92 punts in 1974 for 608 yards, CFL highs for the season. He punted 136 times for 5480 yards, an average of 40.3. When the Riders require help for injured troops, Adams can back the line.

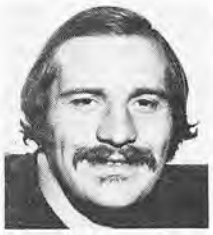
Rod Woodward and Al Marcellin return with Adams as hubs in the defensive backfield. Wayne Giordano and the blithe Jerry Campbell are back to back the line. Wayne Smith and Charlie Brandon return to anchor a robust defensive line.

But whether David Loeb will be impressed with the 1975 Riders depends on the rookie quarterbacks. If Holloway and Clements can carry the burden of proof, Loeb's groceteria will pay 'em off in green stamps.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Adams, R.	DB	6-0	195	27	Miami (Ohio)
Bledsoe, J.	RB	6-1	218	24	Ohio State
Campbell, J.	LB	5-11	210	31	Idaho
Coode, J.	OT	6-4	260	23	Michigan
Crepin, P.	WR	6-0	180	22	—
Gabriel, T.	OE	6-4	210	27	Syracuse
Giardino, W.	RB-DB	5-11	195	32	Florida State
Green, A.	RB	5-11	202	26	Albany State
Keeling, J.	QB	6-1	180	36	Tulsa
Kosmos, M.	LB	6-0	230	30	Oklahoma
Kuzyk, G.	WR	6-0	190	29	Otterbein
Marbury, K.	RB	5-11	183	23	West Virginia
Marcelin, A.	DB	6-1	190	30	Parsons
McKeown, B.	C	6-2	225	25	Yale
Nixon, R.	TE	6-5	215	31	Southern
Oldham, H.	WR	5-10	175	32	Oregon
Organ, G.	K	6-2	200	31	Guelph
Palmer, B.	LB	6-3	217	22	Bowling Green
Piaskoski, J.	DT	6-5	245	27	Sudbury
Pullen, T.	TE	6-4	210	30	Michigan
Reid, F.	T	6-2	235	29	Buffalo
Schuette, T.	G	6-1	230	30	Indiana
Schultz, T.	YE	6-3	225	28	Queens
Smith, B.	DT	6-2	235	26	Colorado
Smith, D.	OT	6-4	235	26	Purdue
Smith, W.	DE	6-4	230	25	Halifax
Taylor, C.	DT	6-3	260	25	Memphis State
Tosh, W.	DB	5-11	180	28	Richmond
Visneski, M.	WR	5-11	185	26	—
Woodward, R.	DB	6-1	200	31	Idaho

HEAD COACH—George Brancat



TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Jim Stillwagon

The Toronto Argonauts have not won the national championship since 1952, the longest span between gulps from the Grey Cup of any of the nine clubs in the Canadian Football League.

They may not end the drought this year, on the advice of rookie head coach Russ Jackson. "I try to explain to people that they can't expect miracles. Winning will take time and I've got five years to work at it. Hopefully, it won't take that long."

The Argos' first resolution last New Year's Day was to sign Jackson to a five-year contract. He is the first Canadian-born head coach in 20 years, sought and received by Toronto's sophomore owner, Superfan William Hodgson.

Jackson quit running a high school in Ottawa to accept the Toronto challenge. He retired as quarterback of the Rough Riders in 1969, established then as the premier player in the Canadian game.

Jackson retained Joe Moss as one of his assistant thinkers. Moss had been interim boss on the field after John Rauch was dismissed halfway through last season.

Then, recalling the defensive units constructed by Bob Ward in Ottawa and Montreal, Jackson recruited Ward from the wilds of Maryland. Lamar Leachman, a defensive specialist in 1974 with the New York Stars of the World Football League, was hired as Jackson's third assistant.

The Argos, fourth and last in the Eastern Conference last year, went to training camp with Mike Rae nominally tagged No. 1 quarterback. Rae has not yet endorsed the precocity he exhibited as a college star in Southern California. They hoped to spur Rae with competition provided by Bob Lee, 29-year-old castoff from the Atlanta Falcons. Lee was discarded by the Falcons after they drafted Steve Bartkowski, last year's No. 1 college draftee.

Lee, a running-passing type, was inconspicuous in the NFL last fall. He previously had four inactive seasons with the Minnesota Vikings.

The Argos bargained for Lee after losing Fred Solomon to the Miami Dolphins. Solomon, out of the University of Tampa, was Miami's second choice in the college lottery, based on his speed—4.5 seconds for 40 yards.

Rick Arrington, held over from last year, and the scrambling Rick Worley, from Howard Payne in Texas, are other candidates for the Toronto quarterback portfolio.

Seeking running speed, Toronto signed Randy (Sweet Back) Walker from Bethune-Cookman. Walker dropped out of school with a year of U.S. eligibility remaining. In college, he scored 33 touchdowns in 22 games.

Wide receivers were a priority. Chuck Herd, the incumbent, must beat back bids from James Davis and L.J. Clayton. Davis went from Winston-Salem State to brief duty with Atlanta and the Buffalo Bills last year. Clayton left Howard Payne in 1974 for Philadelphia, where he failed to make the Eagles.

Other rookie imports include Ken Scott, defensive end-offensive guard from Maryland, and tackle Ralph Miller, who served briefly with New Orleans, San Diego, Houston and Philadelphia after leaving Cal Lutheran in 1970.

The Argos signed the No. 1 Canadian campus star, Al Charuk, Acadia University's all-everything last season. He played 60 minutes as wide receiver and defensive halfback, winner of the Hec Creighton Trophy as Canada's outstanding collegian.

Cleo House, who jumped the Argos for the WFL, returned after the Portland Storm blew out. Interior lineman Mike Haggerty, once a Pittsburgh Steeler, also landed in Toronto from the WFL.

John Williams was obtained from the Edmonton Eskimos as a possible replacement for cornerback Tim Anderson, who abandoned the Argos for the San Francisco 49ers. They also needed help on the other corner after veteran Dave Raimey reported that knee problems might force his permanent retirement.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Allen, E.	RB	5-10	162	26	Mich. State
Allison, W.	DB	6-0	185	26	Waterloo Lutheran
Anderson, G.	LB	6-3	230	27	Simon Fraser
Andrusyhsyn, Z.	K-P	6-1	206	28	UCLA
Beechey, R.	WR	6-1	180	26	Alberta
Blake, E.	RB	6-1	225	25	Bethune-Cookman
Buetow, B.	G	6-5	250	25	Minnesota
Carnegie, E.	RB	5-11	205	23	Seneca
Cooper, B.	DB	5-10	185	30	–
Corbett, B.	OT	6-4	275	–	J.C. Smith
Corrigall, J.	DE	6-3	253	29	Kent State
Cuncic, W.	G	6-2	235	25	Utah State
Cvijanovich, S.	LB	6-1	218	25	Cal Lutheran
Doret, C.	DB-RB	6-0	190	25	Toronto
Eben, M.	WR	6-1	183	29	Toronto
Finlay, B.	DB	6-2	210	25	McMaster
Francis, S.	G	6-2	225	26	Simon Fraser
Herd, C.	WR	6-0	205	25	Penn State
Krause, P.	G	6-4	250	24	Central Michigan
Liggins, G.	DT	6-0	235	29	Oklahoma
Logan, M.	QB	6-2	195	24	Eastern Michigan
Mack, G.	LB	6-2	218	26	UTEP
Muller, P.	TE	6-4	225	24	Western Illinois
Orange, D.	RB	5-11	200	24	Mississippi Southern
Rae, M.	QB	6-1	185	24	Southern California
Raimey, D.	DB	5-11	187	35	Michigan
Scott, F.	DE	6-3	250	25	Youngstown
Shelsta, T.	G	6-3	250	26	Dakota
Shuttlesworth, E.	RB	6-3	230	22	Michigan
Simpson, L.	TE	6-4	225	25	Wilfrid Laurier
Stillwagon, J.	DT	6-0	239	26	Ohio State
Utek, L.	DB	6-0	185	25	Wilfrid Laurier
West, B.	DB	5-11	185	28	Tennessee State
Zubkewych, Morris	C	6-3	250	23	Simon Fraser

HEAD COACH—Russ Jackson

Andy Hopkins

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE EASTERN CONFERENCE

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Ralph Sazio, ringmaster of the the Tiger-Cats, made extravagant changes to freshen up the Hamilton act. Every holdover, with the possible exception of fullback Andy Hopkins, was placed on waivers at some time or other during the last off-season.

Quarterback Don Jonas, unable to obtain the contract he wanted, retired to the telecasting booth. Al Brenner, an all-star safety back, was traded to Winnipeg for Bruce Scholtens, a linebacker released by the Detroit Lions.

Linebacker Larry Brame, the best Ticat at that position, was waived goodbye and has gone to the B.C. Lions. Lewis Porter, a vital part of Hamilton's defensive umbrella, played out his option. Lou Clare, another defensive back, quit football to pursue a hockey career with the Cincinnati Stingers.

The reluctance of the Ticats to part with money was a major reason for so many dissidents on the Hamilton club.

To replace departing quality, Sazio went after abundant quantity. Tony Perea (University of Texas at El Paso) landed in Hamilton on the first bounce after an ankle injury forced the Calgary Stampeders to release him. He is touted as a very mobile linebacker.

Towering Tony Williams, defensive end and tackle, was elected the most valuable of the Wyoming Cowboys in 1974. Robert Shaw, All-Ivy and All-East at Harvard, has impressive linebacking credentials. Jerry Williams, no kin to head coach Jerry Williams, is a linebacker from Indiana State.

Tony Cristiani (University of Miami) departed from his family's circus dynasty to join Hamilton's linebacking unit. He previously worked with the Daredevil Cristianis as a bareback rider, wire walker and trapeze acrobat. He was Miami's most valuable player in 1973.

Joe Colquitt, a robust 238-pounder from Kansas State, seeks employment as a linebacker after a short trial last year at defensive end.

Defensive backs are needed to fill the gaps left by Brenner, Porter and Clare. William Florence (University of Louisville) was imported from the Kansas City Chiefs. Dan Lintner (Indiana) was drafted eighth by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1973. Three native defensive backs, Ernie Palango, Ted Greves and Dan Medwin, were also signed for '75.

The Canadians joined Michael Kaier (Adams State) and Nat Ross (Bethune-Cookman) as possible replacements in the defensive perimeter.

James Datrice (St. Mary's) may be the fast running back required to complement the plunging of the durable Hopkins. He was the first St. Mary's man to rush for more than 1000 yards in a single season and, as a senior, was player-of-the-year in Northern California.

Paul Loughran (Temple) and Charles Jessamy (Kansas Wesleyan) will challenge Datrice. Loughran missed last season because of mononucleosis. The swift Jessamy was a late cut of the New York Giants.

Offensive linemen recruited include Stephen Sadich (Missouri), co-captain of his college team; Bob Riley (Northeastern University), a 250-pound Atlanta discard; Nick Nighswander, an Ohio Valley all-star center at Morehead State; 260-pound John Brewer (Indiana State); and Ted Hand (Eastern Michigan), released by the Patriots.

Ken Clark, Hamilton's first choice in the Canadian college draft in 1974, returned from Portland as a wide receiver and placekicker. He twice led St. Mary's of Halifax in scoring during his university tenure.

Bill Etter, returning for a third year, gets a chance to prove he is finally undisputed as first-string quarterback. Dave Fleming is back for his 11th season as an offensive and defensive back. Garney Henley (Huron College), in his 16th professional season, may again play the defensive backfield.

Tony Gabriel, the outstanding Canadian in the CFL last year, tiffed with Sazio over contractual terms but was scheduled to return at offensive end. He demanded more than the $20,000 a year he was offered.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Aldridge, D.	LB	6-0	198	34	Waterloo
Bibbs, E.	DE	6-3	252	23	Grambling
Bishop, R.	DE	6-2	282	25	Louisville
Campbell, G.	DB	6-1	188	26	Iowa State
Chalupka, E.	G	6-0	225	28	North Carolina
Clare, L.	DB	6-2	225	25	Minnesota
Currie, A.	DT	6-4	240	24	Acadia
Dannychuk, B.	OT	6-3	240	35	Tennessee
Dulmage, D.	DT	6-3	250	25	Western Ontario
Easley, D.	DB	5-10	185	28	Blue Bomber Jrs.
Etter, B.	QB	6-2	195	25	Notre Dame
Evanshen, T.	WR	5-10	185	30	Utah State
Ferguson, K.	DB	6-1	230	31	Utah State
Fleming, D.	RB	6-0	205	31	Pittsburgh
Grambau, F.	DE	6-2	248	25	Michigan
Henley, G.	WR	6-0	180	38	Huron
Hopkins, A.	RB	5-11	185	26	Stephen F. Austin
Krouse, B.	LB	6-1	195	32	Hamilton Central
Langner, B.	OT	6-4	255	24	–
Latimore, M.	G	6-0	235	25	Kansas State
Mims, J.	RB	5-11	190	25	New Mexico State
Postler, W.	OT	6-5	255	26	Montana
Pritchett, B.	LB	6-4	235	25	Utah State
Rotella, J.	LB	6-2	212	24	Tennessee
Samples, M.	DE	6-2	245	26	Drake
Skolrood, L.	TE	6-4	235	–	North Dakota
Sunter, I.	K	6-0	175	23	Burlington Jrs.
Terrell, H.	G	6-2	245	26	Alcorn A&M
Walker, M.	RB	6-0	195	25	Kitchener

HEAD COACH–Jerry Williams

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Roy Bell

The Edmonton Eskimos, under Ray Jauch of Iowa, have regained a dominance of the Western Conference that used to be theirs practically by Divine Right 20 years ago. Jauch has supervised two successive Western championships, although Edmonton lost the Grey Cup bids in 1973 and 1974.

One vital cog in Edmonton's success through the last eight seasons is missing—defensive tackle John La Grone has retired. He came out of Southern Methodist in 1967 to win six All-Western selections and three All-Canadian salutations. LaGrone quit football to practice law in Texas.

Most other cogs will return to the Edmonton wheel, including quarterbacks Bruce Lemmerman and Cowboy Tom Wilkinson, halfbacks Roy Bell and Calvin Hurrell and pass receivers Larry Highbaugh and Garry Lefebvre.

Strong-legged Dave Cutler, most accurate placekicker in the CFL, is back to defend the CFL scoring title. Ex-Simon Fraser, Cutler scored 144 points last year, 32 converts, 34 field goals and 10 singles. The retired Tommy-Joe Coffey set the single-season scoring record at 148 with Hamilton in 1969.

Highbaugh signed a three-year contract as Edmonton's Mr. Everything. He returns kickoffs, runs back missed field goals, plays cornerback and catches passes. The former Indiana track star made All-Canada at defensive back in 1973 and 1974.

Coach Jauch, recruiting linemen, retrieved linebacker Sam Britts from the defunct Detroit Wheel. Britts was a Western all-star before abandoning the Canadian game for the World Football League. Cornerback Wayne Matherne was acquired from the B.C. Lions after Matherne was fined for his part in an assault case.

Offensive guard Dan Dixon (Boise State) arrives via the Detroit Wheel. Defensive tackle Ernest Kirk (Howard Payne) had a brief tryout with the Houston Oilers last season. Defensive tackle Tom Laputka (Southern Illinois) landed in the Alberta capital in a swap with the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Jauch was all raves about Laputka. "He's a defensive player who makes things happen. We needed such a player when LaGrone retried."

A big name for another time in football may make second-generation headlines in Edmonton—Mike Tittle, a 215-pound linebacker, was recruited from San Francisco State. Tittle is the son of old Y.A., a storied quarterback with the 49ers and New York Giants.

Canadian college football contributed several graduates to the Eskimo training camp—linebacker Tom Towns (University of Alberta), offensive tackle John Latter (Bishop's), offensive guard Bob Gillies (Bishop's), offensive tackle Marty Doyle (Carleton), and linebacker Brian Jones (University of Alberta).

Cowboy Wilkinson and Lemmerman seem set to provide 1-2 quarterback punch again, but Dennis Morrison has also been signed for a shot at the position.

Morrison, a left-hander, is physically impressive—three inches over six feet and 210 pounds. The 49ers drafted him from Kansas State in 1973 and he started several games for San Francisco last year. He became expendable in the Bay Area when the 49ers "discovered" Tom Owen and traded for Norman Snead.

Edmonton seems set with holdovers at halfback, as well, but the fast Archie Gibson attended training camp. The former Utah State star was drafted by New England last year but did not survive the Patriot camp.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Beaton, J.	RB	6-2	197	26	Simon Fraser
Bell, R.	RB	6-0	200	26	Oklahoma
Bridges, B.	DE	6-6	245	24	Colorado
Britts, S.	LB	6-0	215	25	Missouri
Campbell, D.	DB	6-0	190	24	Queens
Cutler, D.	K	5-10	201	30	Simon Fraser
Dupuis, D.	DB	5-10	183	33	Notre Dame
Estay, R.	DE	6-1	240	27	Louisiana State
Farlinger, J.	WR	6-0	175	27	Calgary
Fennell, D.	DT	6-3	249	23	North Dakota
Forwick, R.	DE	6-4	245	32	Edmonton
Harrell, C.	RB	6-1	210	26	Arkansas State
Highbaugh, L.	DB	5-9	175	27	Indiana
Howes, B.	C	6-4	246	33	Queens
Jones, L.	DB	6-8	230	23	Norfolk State
Koinzan, C.	DE	6-4	245	27	Doane
Konihowski, J.	WR	6-3	190	25	Saskatchewan U.
Lambros, M.	LB	6-1	220	26	Queens
Lang, S.	WR	6-1	190	24	Queens
Laputka, T.	DT	6-3	255	27	Southern Illinois
Lefebvre, G.	DB	6-1	185	31	Edmonton
Lemmerman, B.	QB	6-1	200	30	Cal State-Northridge
McLaren, R.	LB	6-1	225	28	Simon Fraser
McGowan, G.	WR	6-2	191	27	Kansas
McGregor, R.	RB	5-11	205	27	Alberta
Martin, W.	G	6-5	250	24	Northeastern State
Matherne, W.	DB	6-1	195	26	N.E. Louisiana State
Moore, J.	Rb	6-0	205	25	Missouri
Moss, L.	DB	5-8	195	24	Missouri
Noble, M.	DB	6-0	185	25	Washington State
Norrie, B.	DB	5-10	185	31	Queens
Potter, D.	LB	6-2	230	25	U. of Ottawa
Scales, R.	G	6-1	240	31	Brigham Young
Turner, C.	OT	6-3	260	31	Ohio
Walls, T.	TE	6-2	210	28	Missouri
Warrington, D.	RB	6-0	206	27	Simon Fraser
Watkins, L.	G	6-4	200	27	Western Kentucky
Wilkinson, T.	QB	5-11	188	32	Wyoming
Worobec, J.	OT	6-4	250	24	Drake

HEAD COACH—Ray Jauch

Ron Lancaster

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

The Roughriders recruited Albert Qualls, a defensive end from Oklahoma who did not make the NFL as an eighth-round draftee of the Baltimore Colts.

They signed a defensive halfback from Xavier, Rudy McLinon, a 12th round pick of the Cincinnati Bengals. They offered tryouts to Steve Putnal (Georgia Tech), a linebacker cut by the Detroit Lions; offensive lineman Ed Foster (Oklahoma), who has traveled a nomadic route with the New England Patriots, the Jacksonville Sharks and the Southern California Sun; defensive back Jon Murdic from Tennessee; and defensive tackle Ken Thomas, who used to sack collegiate quarterbacks for Tulsa.

But the Roughriders' major strengths repose where they have before—in George Reed's formidable rushing and in the arm and brain of Ron Lancaster.

Reed, seven times an All-Canadian back, holds every rushing record of importance in Canada. He has carried the ball 2920 times for 14,662 yards, more than eight miles. He has scored more touchdowns (126) and more touchdowns rushing (123) than any player on the Canadian sod, or under it. Reed has rushed for 1000 or more yards in 10 of the 13 seasons he has played in the CFL.

Lancaster has thrown more passes (4459), completed more passes (2388) for more yards (37,372) and more touchdowns (256) than any of the outstanding players before him, including Sam Etcheverry, Bernie Faloney and Russ Jackson. Jackson, in fact, offered Lancaster a chance to join the Toronto Argonauts as a player-coach. Lancaster opted instead to remain in Regina in a similar role with Coach John Payne.

Other returning veterans include the burly offensive guard Ralph Galloway (Southern Illinois), defensive end Steve Smear (Penn State) and running back Pete Watson (Tufts).

The Roughriders probably make better use of homegrown talent than any other team in the CFL. Offensive guard Gary Brandt is back for a ninth year, the versatile Alan Ford for a 10th. Ford has played flanker and halfback, but, in the last two seasons, has concentrated on tight end and punting.

Tom Campana (Ohio State) is in his fourth season at offensive back. In three years, Campana has caught 143 passes for 2210 yards.

Payne expects exciting play from Rhett Dawson, who arrived in Regina late last season after being cut by the Minnesota Vikings. In five games, Dawson caught 14 passes for 232 yards and three touchdowns.

Steve Molnar, a Saskatchewan native schooled to play fullback and halfback at George Washington University and Utah, signed for a seventh term with the Roughriders.

George Wells (New Mexico State) returns for a second season on the Canadian plains after being obtained in a trade last year. Wells, a robust defensive end, made All-Canada in 1974.

Of his new acquisitions, Coach Payne was most impressed by the presence of Ed Foster. "I think he'll be the best offensive lineman I've seen in eight years in the CFL."

Foster knocks enemy defenders down and then, figuratively at least, helps them up. He is a lay preacher in the Baptist Church.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Abendschan, J.	K-G	6-2	245	32	New Mexico
Benard, L.	DB	6-1	175	–	Manitoba
Berg, B.	K-OT	6-1	240	–	Augsburg
Bird, L.	C	6-1	230	29	Western
Brandt, G.	G	6-1	230	31	Washington
Brock, C.	OT	6-7	270	36	Utah State
Bulych, T.	RB	6-0	208	24	Weber State
Campana, T.	RB	5-10	190	25	Ohio State
Collins, C.	LB	6-2	225	29	Auburn
Dawson, R.	WR	6-0	185	26	Florida State
Dirks, M.	DT	6-2	245	28	Wyoming
Dushinski, T.	DB	6-0	190	31	Saskatoon
Elder, J.	DB	6-10	185	26	Louisiana State
Foster, E.	OT	6-3	260	24	Oklahoma
Ford, A.	TE	6-1	215	31	Pacific
Galloway, R.	DT	6-1	250	28	Southern Illinois
Hopson, J.	G	6-2	240	24	Regina
Lancaster, R.	QB	5-10	190	36	Wittenberg
Landy, F.	DE	6-3	230	24	North Dakota
McEachern, K.	DB	6-0	190	–	Weber State
Manchuk, B.	LB	6-2	210	27	Alberta
Mattingly, R.	QB	6-4	210	–	Evansville
Mazurak, S.	WR	6-2	195	23	Regina
Molnar, S.	RB	5-11	200	28	Utah
McLeod, A.	LB	5-11	190	24	Alberta
O'Neal, J.	(R)DE	6-4	255	22	Grambling
Pearce, B.	WR	6-10	185	27	Stephen F. Austin
Petterson, L.	P-WR	6-2	180	–	Otterbein
Provost, T.	S	6-3	195	27	Ohio State
Reed, G.	RB	6-0	205	35	Washington State
Richardson, B.	TE	6-5	250	26	Iowa State
Richardson, L.	DB	6-0	190	25	Colorado
Roth, T.	OT	6-2	250	27	South Dakota State
Smear, S.	DE	6-1	240	–	Penn State
Walker, E.	OT	6-4	275	–	Wisconsin
Watson, P.	RB	6-1	210	–	Tufts
Wells, G.	DE	6-2	235	26	New Mexico State

HEAD COACH—John Payne

Lou Harris

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

The Lions, striving to regain their championship status of 1963-4, retained their habit of signing All-America luminaries. This time they recruited Aubrey Schulz, picked first team center by the Football Writers of America in their All-America poll last fall.

Baylor coach Grant Teaff submitted a glowing testimonial. "Schulz came to me as a 210-pound, second-string player. I was stunned by his ambition. He said his first goal was to be All-Southwest center, then All-America, and then to play on a conference champion team. At the time, he was an offensive guard who did not play center."

Coach Teaff switched Schulz to center and the rest, as he says, is history. "We won seven of our last eight games. We won our first conference championship ever. We went to the Cotton Bowl. All of this was led by Aubrey Schulz."

So will Schulz play center for the Lions? No. That job is handled by a returning veteran, Al Wilson. Schulz will be switched to offensive guard.

Garrett Hunsperger, a defensive tackle waived to Toronto because of off-field misbehavior, may be replaced by Robert Pulliam, a 245-pound import from Tennessee.

Coach Eagle Keys, an old Tennessee boy himself, from the cosmopolitan hamlet of Turkey Neck Bend, said: "We think Pulliam's speed makes him an excellent Canadian prospect. The Tennessee coaching staff rates him the quickest they've ever had at defensive tackle. The only reason the NFL didn't draft him, we think, is that, at 6-1, he is too short for their kind of game."

Two former Lions, defensive end Mike Walker and defensive back Rocky Long, return from the flat Detroit Wheel. Walker apprenticed for the pros at Tulane. Long's college career was at New Mexico.

Versatile lineman Don McDonough came from Edmonton in a swap for defensive back Wayne Matherne. McDonough (Missouri) was All-Big Eight at defensive tackle before being signed as a free agent by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1974. He wound up in Edmonton after Kansas City cut him.

The Lions announced that Matherne was expendable because four veteran imports—Grady Caveness, Joe Fourqurean, Mike Wilson and Luther Howard—are returning to the secondary. An off-field scrape with the law didn't help Matherne's chances of remaining, either.

Wide receiver Ross Clarkson unretired after sitting out the 1974 season. After an impressive rookie year in 1973, he deserted football to tour the world. Home again, he joins Jim Young, Brock Aynsley, Slade Willis and Dave Kaduhr among the B.C. receiving clerks. The Lions also signed a rookie receiver, Mark McDonald of Washington.

Lions had the CFL's best rushing attack in 1973, 2880 yards. Lou Harris and Monroe Ealey each smashed the 1000-yard barrier—Harris with 1239, Ealey 1176. Their passing attack, geared to veterans Don Moorhead and Pete Liske, was less impressive. Harris can catch the ball as well as he can run it—sixth in the West with 532 yards in the air.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Ardern, B.	DB	5-10	180	29	Ottawa
Aynsley, B.	WR	6-2	190	25	Washington State
Bailey, T.	RB	6-0	205	24	Simon Fraser
Baker, B.	DE	6-3	255	30	Otterbein
Boleski, L.	OT	6-4	245	34	Wyoming
Briley, L.	DB	5-11	170	26	East Texas State
Caveness, G.	DB	5-11	195	28	UTEP
Clarkson, R.	WR	5-10	175	24	Simon Fraser
Dever, D.	LB	6-0	200	29	Wake Forest
Eley, M.	RB	6-3	210	26	Arizona State
Fourqurean, J.	DB	6-1	190	25	Bluefield State
Guthrie, E.	QB	6-1	200	28	Boise State
Harris, L.	RB	5-10	205	25	Southern California
Hendrickson, L.	TE	6-1	215	32	Oregon
Hornes, B.	DB	5-11	160	26	Idaho State
Howard, L.	DB	6-0	180	24	Delaware State
Kaduhr, D.	WR	6-1	180	24	Simon Fraser
LaHood, M.	G	6-3	240	31	Wyoming
Liske, P	QB	6-2	195	33	Penn State
Long, R.	DB	5-10	175	25	New Mexico
McDonald, M.	WR	5-10	170	24	Washington
McDonough, D.	LB	6-2	230	24	Missouri
McDowell, L.	OL	6-3	255	26	Iowa
MacMillan, I.	K	5-8	160	23	Ottawa
Marcil, B.	C	6-3	251	26	Loyola
Moorhead, D.	QB	6-3	205	27	Michigan
Moro, T.	TE	6-0	220	27	Dayton
Musso, J.	RB	5-11	205	25	Alabama
Nettles, R.	LB	6-2	220	26	Tennessee
Palmer, P.	LB	6-0	210	28	Lenoir Rhyne
Robinson, G.	DT	6-4	265	29	Simon Fraser
Sopatyk, B.	G	6-2	235	25	Boise State
Watters, L.	LB	6-2	195	24	Calgary
Wester, C.	OT	6-3	255	24	East Texas State
Willis, S.	WR	6-1	180	25	Drake
Wilson, A.	C	6-2	240	25	Montana State
Wunderly, D.	DT	6-3	235	24	Arkansas
Young, J.	WR	6-0	195	32	Queens

HEAD COACH—Eagle Keys

Walt McKee

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE WESTERN CONFERENCE

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

The Bombers could have an attack that will drive announcers nuts: "It's Smith, faking to Smith, and passing to Smith."

James S. (Smitty) Smith is a 24-year-old fullback from North Carolina Central. He was drafted by the Detroit Lions, but felt his chances for a starting berth were better in Winnipeg. John Charles (J.C.) Smith is a tall quarterback from Ohio Northern. He signed as a free agent with the Oakland Raiders last year, but nobody else quarterbacks the Raiders as long as they have Kenneth Stabler. James L. (Jimmy Jet) Smith is a short, compact running back from Northern Arizona. He began his college career at Mesa Junior, twice making Junior College All America. He transferred to Missouri in 1972 as a blocking back, then switched to Northern Arizona for his senior year. He pulled a hamstring with the California Sun last year, his first as a pro.

Chuck Ealey (Toledo) is expected to guide the Bombers at quarterback, perhaps with assistance from Kelly Cochrane (University of Miami). Cochrane was cut by the Bombers last year and, earlier spent a year on the Houston Oilers' taxi squad.

The Bombers conceded the most points in the CFL in 1974, 350. They yielded the most touchdowns, 39, and the most converts, 33. Part of their defensive woes may be relieved by Al Brenner, who set a single-season record for interceptions at Hamilton—15 in 1972. Rookie linebacker Bruce Scholtens was dispatched to Hamilton for the former Michigan State safety.

Steve Williams, a slender defensive halfback from Alabama, gives the Bombers added protection against the pass. He played with the Birmingham Americans in the WFL.

The Bombers retain the player with the loveliest-sounding name in the CFL—Tuufuli Uperesa, from Aeia, Hawaii. He was groomed for the pros at the University of Montana, starting his third season at offensive guard in Winnipeg.

Other returning veterans are center Bob Swift (Clemson), offensive tackle Butch Norman (Alabama), linebacker Rob Etherington (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), running back Jim Washington (Clemson), offensive tackle Randy Halsall (Wake Forest), and wingback Bob Kraemer (University of Manitoba).

Lovely names? How about one with a football sound? John Bonk (Burlington Braves) returns as a defensive end to match the burly Jim Heighton (Victoria Steelers). The Braves and Steelers are prominent Canadian junior clubs.

Walt McKee, in spite of painful groin trouble, continued to lead all Western punters with an average of 41.8 yards. He returns for a fourth term.

The Bombers expect Ealey, signed to a multi-year contract, to grasp a strange offensive system better than he did last year. He was traded to Winnipeg in mid-season by Hamilton in a straight one-for-one exchange, the young Ealey for the aging Don Jonas.

If Winnipeg has a new look it will be provided by guard Ken Peeples (Clemson), running back Gord Yeomans (Washington State), fullback Brian Adam (University of Alberta), linebacker John Murphy (Boston College), linebacker Tom Waddell (UCLA), punter Bob Macoritti (Wooster), defensive end Steve Spiro (University of Pacific), wide receiver Willie Jones (Iowa State and Atlanta Falcons), fullback George Palmer (Oklahoma State), defensive back Brian Herosian (Connecticutt), defensive back Ray Odums (Alabama), and defensive tackle George Assad (Boston University).

To regain playoff respectability, however, the Bombers must expect defensive back Paul Williams (UCLA), defensive back Pete Ribbins (University of Ottawa), defensive tackle Dave Knechtel (Wilfrid Laurier), offensive guard Buddy Brown (Alabama) defensive tackle Jim Duke and flanker Bob LaRose to stay well and play well.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Arnold, P.	DB	6-3	207	24	Western
Bailey, D.	WR	6-1	195	25	Alabama
Beaird, S.	RB	5-8	195	23	Baylor
Bonk, J.	C	6-3	230	25	Burlington
Brenner, A.	DB	6-1	190	28	Michigan State
Brock, R.	QB	6-0	190	24	Jacksonville State
Buchanan, D.	RB	5-10	190	27	Arizona State
Duke, J.	DE	6-3	250	27	Alabama
Ealey, C.	QB	6-1	195	25	Toledo
Etherington, R.	LB	6-2	215	23	Wilfrid Laurier
Frank, B.	OT	6-5	200	36	Colorado
Gefert, M.	LB	6-2	215	23	Purdue
Grimsrod, L.	LB	6-2	250	24	Idaho
Harrison, C.	OT	6-3	245	33	Western Michigan
Heighton, J.	DE	6-3	252	31	Victoria Steelers
Jack, B.	TE	6-4	225	27	Lenoir Rhyne
Knechtel, D.	DE	6-3	255	30	Waterloo Lutheran
Kolberg, J.	DB	5-11	185	26	Oregon State
Kraemer, B.	QB	5-11	179	25	Manitoba
LaRose, B.	WR	6-3	215	29	Western
Liebrock, C.	G	6-1	245	30	Hillsdale
McEachern, Ted	LB	6-2	220	26	Guelph
McKee, W.	P-K	5-11	175	26	Manitoba
Montagano, D.	DB	5-11	185	26	Carleton
Norman, B.	DE	6-3	250	23	Alabama
Paterson, G.	RB	5-11	190	25	Manitoba
Ribbins, P.	DB	6-1	190	26	Ottawa
Scott, T.	WR	5-10	180	24	Washington
Swift, B.	C	6-0	230	32	Clemson
Toogood, B.	DE	6-2	220	27	Manitoba
Uperesa, T.	G	6-3	255	27	Montana
Walker, M.	RB	5-10	178	23	Bramalea
Walker, T.	RB	6-1	225	26	Waterloo Lutheran
Williams, P.	RB	5-11	195	28	California
Yeomans, G.	RB	6-0	190	23	Washington State

HEAD COACH—Edward Riley

Rudy Linterman

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

The Stampeders, rebuilding off a last-place season, will refurbish without a distinguished veteran, Larry Robinson.

Robinson did not miss a game in 14 seasons with the Stampeders, in uniform for 224 consecutive games. He kicked more converts, 362, than anyone in the recorded history of the Canadian game. He kicked more field goals, 171, than any previous Canadian mercenary. He scored more points than anyone else since the first Canadian lineman fell out of a tree and rushed after a curly-lashed blonde. Robinson, putting the foot in football, scored 1030 points.

Placement kicking represented only half of Robinson's contributions. He was also a vigilant member of Calgary's defensive backfield, fifth in CFL career pass interceptions.

Robinson's retirement was hastened halfway through last season when Cyril McFall joined the team. McFall, replacing Robinson, kicked 17 extra points, 17 field goals and three singles for 71 points, Calgary's highest individual total.

Calgary propagandists tout "great things" for Willie Burden, who is expected to carry the burden of the club's running game. The former North Carolina State flash burned enemy defenders for 541 yards after the Detroit Lions sent him to Canada midway in the '74 season. Burden finished the year by plunging for more than 100 yards in each of his last four football games.

Fred James, tallest defensive tackle in the league at five inches over six feet, returns for his ninth season. Moody Jackson, a fleet graduate of New Mexico State, comes to his sophomore year with a sure grip on the wide receiver position. Jackson caught 39 passes for 717 yards and five touchdowns last season. He had the best ratio of completions to passes in the CFL.

Karl Douglas, obtained from the B.C. Lions for Pete Liske last fall, has a vision to become the first-string quarterback. He has yet to demonstrate, in Canada, his college competence at Texas A & I, which lost only one game in the three years he supervised the attack.

New Stampeders include Tony Bachmann, a 245-pound offensive lineman from San Diego State. He was rated an excellent pass blocker in the Pacific Coast Conference, capable enough to be chosen All West Coast last fall by United Press International.

Bill Ziegler is a running back from Missouri. Dennis Colvin, 6-5 and 250 pounds, is a tackle prospect from Southwest Texas State. Mark Green, promising fullback from Texas A & M, will challenge Rick Galbos.

German-born Rudy Linterman, in his eighth pro season since leaving the University of Idaho, was Calgary's most valuble player in 1973 and its most popular last year. He was runner-up to Tony Gabriel of Hamilton as the Outstanding Canadian player in 1974.

Linterman is an all-rounder who rushes the ball, catches it and returns punts and kickoffs. In 1968, used primarily on punt returns, he set a single-season CFL record—112 punts returned for 668 yards.

Octavus Morgan (Illinois) returns to back the line. Larry Moore (Angelo State) is held over at defensive end. So is Jim Bond, five years removed from Simon Fraser. Larry Cates (Western Michigan) is expected to double up at defensive corner and running back.

Glenn Scolnik (Indiana) is a candidate for wide receiver. He holds the single-season passing record at Indiana—53 catches for 727 yards. He was drafted sixth by the Steelers in 1973, quarreled with the Pittsburgh club over his contract, and returned to law school. He signed with the Stampeders late last season.

Chuck Varner is a versatile prospect from Miami of Ohio. In college, Varner played two years at fullback and two at middle linebacker, and was chosen all-conference at both.

1975 VETERANS ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College or Previous Team
Bachman, T.	DB	6-0	190	24	New Mexico State
Bark, B.	C	6-2	235	30	Montreal
Bond, J.	DE	6-3	245	26	Simon Fraser
Burden, W.	RB	5-11	200	24	North Carolina State
Cates, L.	DB	5-11	185	25	Western Michigan
Collier, O.	DB	5-10	185	24	Colorado
Douglas, K.	QB	6-2	215	26	Texas A&I
Forzani, Joe	LB	6-2	235	29	Utah State
Forzani, John	G	6-2	245	28	Utah State
Forzani, T.	WR	5-11	175	24	Utah State
Galbos, R.	RB	6-1	205	24	Ohio State
Goree, R.	LB	6-0	205	23	Baylor
Helton, J.	DT	6-3	250	28	Arizona State
Holton, H.	OT	6-2	235	–	UTEP
Huber, M.	OT	6-3	255	29	Brigham Young
Jackson, M.	WR	6-3	195	–	New Mexico State
James, F.	DT	6-5	255	30	Alberta
Lamoureaux, B.	LB	6-1	215	26	Washington State
Lide, Bill	WR	5-10	175	24	J.C. Smith
Linterman, R.	RB	5-11	205	27	Idaho
McFall, C.	K	5-11	185	22	–
McKay, P.	DB	6-0	195	29	Toronto U.
Moore, L.	DE	6-3	235	24	Angelo State
Morgan, O.	LB	6-3	220	23	Illinois
Moulton, D.	DB	6-3	180	24	Calgary
Murdock, G.	OT	6-2	250	–	Iowa State
Pisarcik, J.	QB	6-4	225	23	New Mexico State
Scherbina, L.	DT	6-4	260	23	Idaho
Silye, J.	DB	5-9	180	29	Ottawa
Sovio, H.	TE	6-3	230	26	Hawaii
Starks, H.	DB	6-1	185	30	Wichita State
Stewart, G.	DE	6-2	245	28	Boise State
Wesolowski, D.	RB	6-1	210	28	North Carolina

HEAD COACH—Jim Wood

CFL PREDICTIONS

BY DICK BEDDOES

Your book's Canadian correspondent, having retrieved his crystal ball from Uncle Oswald, the pawnbroker on the corner, and dispossessed the last of the tropical fish to whom the old financier rented space in it for the duration of a harsh winter, is now in a position to call the order of finish in the Canadian football races of 1975. This will be done, naturally, in response to a mandate.

The mandate was a long time in coming; it arrived only in early June in the form of an urgent letter from a cousin who is in Glendale, Calif., in the taxidermy game.

"Dear Cousin," wrote this prominent stuffer, a transplanted Canadian, "Why don't you pick the CFL conference winners? I think you had them right in 1914, or maybe it was 1934, and you might be due again. Meanwhile, can you spare $50 till next week? Things are slow in the taxidermy line. I have not stuffed a bald eagle since last August."

The remarks of this impecunious embalmer of wild life are quoted merely to demonstrate that these predictions are meeting a genuine popular demand, not just forecasting to forecast.

As for the date of the last year we were right, the man is mistaken. It was 1974. All taxidermists suffer from poor memories, or so we're told. It seems to be an occupational consequence of putting glass eyes into weasels and other creatures.

Here, right off, is the way the teams will finish in Canada's two professional conferences this season. An explanation will follow as soon as we can think of one.

Western Conference—Edmonton Eskimos, Saskatchewan Roughriders, B.C. Lions, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Calgary Stampeders.

Eastern Conference—Montreal Alouettes, Ottawa Rough Riders, Toronto Argonauts, Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

In the East, Montreal's Grey Cup champions are intact, with one notable exception. Ed George, an all-star offensive tackle, has defected to the Pittsburgh Steelers. George will be missed, but perhaps not as much as he thinks.

The Alouettes won with defense last year and appear to be equally strong in that department again. For hand-to-hand battle in the trenches, no team in the country can match defensive linemen like Gordon Judges, Joe Critchlow, Chuck Zapiec and Carl Crennel.

Mike Widger is the best corner linebacker in the East, Junior Ah You the most remorseless defensive end in the land.

Coach Marv Levy expects quarterback Sonny Wade to keep exhibiting the comeback qualities he revealed in replacing Jimmy Jones during the Grey Cup game. If they can't do the job, an NFL cut named Hal Chealander might.

When all else fails offensively, the Als can give the ball to Steve Ferrughelli, a blasting fullback. If you haven't got the horses, you can't get the plowing done, as George Allen used to say, and Ferughelli is a stud.

Montreal's three Eastern rivals make a scrambled lot. Ottawa qualified to play Montreal for the divisional title last season on the strength of its defense, and seems to have maintained that asset.

It will be maintained, that is, if the mercenaries who specialize in fighting in the hedgerows can muscle up and do it again. That puts it up to defenders named Jerry Campbell, Wayne Giordano, Charlie Brandon, Wayne Smith and another Smith, Bruce, obtained in a trade with Edmonton.

Ottawa's underwhelming attack, blamed by owner David Loeb on quarterbacks Gerald Keeling and Richard Cassata, reposes in the inexperienced hands of two rookies—Condredge Holloway and Tom Clements.

The new pitchers, just before training camp began, got two proven catchers. Tony Gabriel and Gary Kuzyk arrived in a swap with Hamilton. One of them, the elongated Gabriel, is a tight end with the sort of grabby hands—61 passes for 795 yards last year—that can break up ball games.

Offensively, if either Holloway or Clements, supported by Keeling, can do the job, the Riders can return to their championship status of 1973.

The Toronto Argonauts could nose out Hamilton for the cellar, but the vagaries of marine life down there below sea level are hard to examine with the naked eye.

The Argonauts have a new look, in a manner of speaking, in Russ Jackson, their freshman coach. But he should not be impeded by freshman classification; when he was leading Ottawa to Grey Cup titles, it was fashionable to say "Jackson is a coach on the field."

On the field, it is perhaps unfortunate that Jackson cannot still play quarterback. He would be superior to any of the candidates for the position which Mike Rae again aspires to fill. In the belief that Rae cannot fill it, the Argos sought other quarterbacks—Cassata, Bob Lee, Fred Solomon—all of whom decided to play elsewhere.

Toronto's major plus has been its defensive line, partially eroded a few days before training camp opened. Jim Stillwagon, the former Ohio All-American who has been an All-Canadian defensive tackle three times, damaged his right knee in a television drill. Stillwagon was blocked as he was about to hit a tackle dummy and twisted his leg enough to sideline him from three to seven weeks.

For all the question marks surrounding Toronto, there are more in Hamilton. Can Bill Etter finally make it at quarterback? Was general manager Ralph Sazio right in discarding young players like Gabriel, Charles Ealey, Bob Richardson, Al Brenner and Larry Brame?

Until their replacements prove otherwise, the answer is "Yes."

WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Western Conference should have another good race, with Edmonton again surviving cut-throat competition on the plains. Coach Ray Jauch and his accomplices have assembled a team with no apparent weaknesses, in spite of the retirement of all-star defensive tackle John LaGrone.

No team in the CFL has Edmonton's substantial quarterbacking—Cowboy Wilkinson to start and Bruce Lemmerman to come on in relief. Wilkinson was justifiably chosen the outstanding CFL player last season, an award only slightly diminished when he was knocked out of the Grey Cup game when struck by Montreal's marauding Ah You.

Edmonton's impressive attack will be gilded if George McGowan, formerly the CFL's outstanding player, returns for a full season catching passes. McGowan was injured last year.

If everything breaks right, Sas-

katchewan could break Edmonton's two-year hold on the Western championship. Some of the Roughriders are the best in the league, but there were signs of senility last season. Ron Lancaster, George Reed, Ralph Galloway and Al Ford figure to creak more loudly at the joints this season than ever before. Nor do there seem to be adequate replacements in sight.

The Roughriders have enough stoppers, however—Steve Smear, Steve Molnar, Tom Campana, George Wells, Ed Foster—to protect against a decline below second place.

The B.C. Lions are good, but not good enough. They are still trying to find a quarterback to replace Joe Kapp, and Kapp's been gone for 10 seasons. Pending a better passing attack, the Lions again must rely on rushing backs Lou Harris and Monroe Ealey to carry the offensive load.

The Calgary Stampeders, with average luck, may pass the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, but the money will be bet the other way.

Chuck Ealey, in his first full season as a Blue Bomber, should supervise the Winnipeg offense with more competence than he did last year after arriving from Hamilton.

The Bombers must hope for a stronger pass defense but, to get it, rookie recruits must produce. The team, as a whole, is still waiting for a repeat of the explosive attack of four years ago when quarterback Don Jonas and halfback Mack Herron rolled up massive yardage. Jonas, traded away, has retired. Herron was waived out of the CFL after a drug charge, and is now demonstrating his Winnipeg dramatics in New England.

The Grey Cup game will be played in Calgary on November 24 and the safest bet of the year is that the Stampeders will not be in it. Lick Stamps is again the CFL theme. They may disappear through a trapdoor, to the chagrin of coach James Wood.

If somebody doesn't take this microphone away in a hurry, we'll say we think Edmonton and Montreal will contest the Grey Cup again. And, unlike last November, Edmonton will win.

Wirephoto shows Wayne Conrad drinking from the Grey Cup following Montreal's 20-7 victory over Edmonton in 1974. Beddoes predicts the same two teams will meet again in '75, but this year the Eskimos will prevail.

***(Editor's Note:** Dick Beddoes' 1974 CFL predictions should lift his crystal ball permanently out of the pawn-shop category. His '75 predictions, below, are identical to his '74 picks, which missed only in the East's third and fourth positions—they were reversed—and in Montreal's upset over Edmonton in the Grey Cup.)*

BEDDOES' 1975 PREDICTIONS

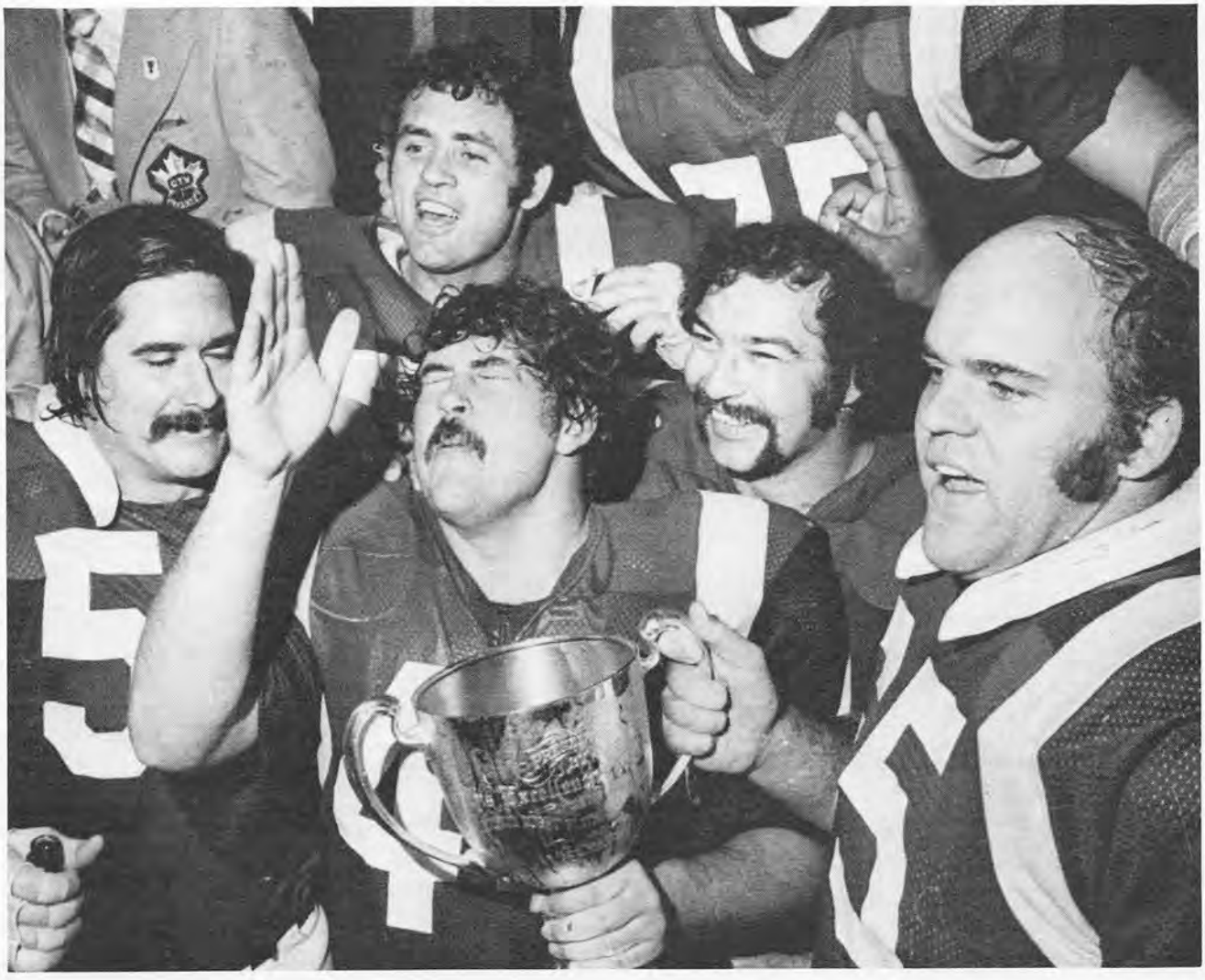
EASTERN CONFERENCE

First—Montreal Alouettes
Second—Ottawa Rough Riders
Third—Toronto Argonauts
Fourth—Hamilton Tiger-Cats

WESTERN CONFERENCE

First—Edmonton Eskimos
Second—Saskatchewan Roughriders
Third—British Columbia Lions
Fourth—Winnipeg Blue Bombers
Fifth—Calgary Stampeders

GREY CUP: Edmonton over Montreal



OFFICIAL CFL 1975 SCHEDULE

WESTERN CONFERENCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

DATE	DAY		LOCAL TIME
Aug. 10	Sun	at Saskatchewan	2:00
Aug. 14	Thu	EDMONTON	7:30
Aug. 27	Wed	at Edmonton	7:30
Sept. 4	Thu	WINNIPEG	7:30
Sept. 9	Tue	at Winnipeg	8:00
Sept. 13	Sat	TORONTO	7:30
Sept. 20	Sat	MONTREAL	7:30
Sept. 28	Sun	at Saskatchewan	2:30
Oct. 4	Sat	CALGARY	7:30
Oct. 12	Sun	at Hamilton	2:00
Oct. 15	Wed	at Ottawa	8:00
Oct. 25	Sat	SASKATCHEWAN	7:30
Nov. 1	Sat	EDMONTON	7:30

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

Aug. 12	Tue	WINNIPEG	8:00
Aug. 21	Thu	OTTAWA	8:00
Aug. 26	Tue	at Winnipeg	8:00
Sept. 1	Mon	EDMONTON	2:30
Sept. 10	Wed	at Saskatchewan	8:00
Sept. 16	Tue	SASKATCHEWAN	8:00
Sept. 21	Sun	at Toronto	2:00
Sept. 28	Sun	EDMONTON	2:30
Oct. 4	Sat	at B.C. Lions	7:30
Oct. 13	Mon	at Edmonton	2:30
Oct. 18	Sat	HAMILTON	8:30
Oct. 26	Sun	at Montreal	1:30
Nov. 2	Sun	WINNIPEG	2:30

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Aug. 14	Thu	at B.C. Lions	7:30
Aug. 20	Wed	TORONTO	7:30
Aug. 27	Wed	B.C. LIONS	7:30
Sept. 1	Mon	at Calgary	2:30
Sept. 6	Sat	SASKATCHEWAN	7:30
Sept. 14	Sun	at Hamilton	2:00
Sept. 17	Wed	at Ottawa	8:00
Sept. 23	Tue	MONTREAL	7:30
Sept. 28	Sun	at Calgary	2:30
Oct. 5	Sun	SASKATCHEWAN	2:30
Oct. 13	Mon	CALGARY	2:30
Oct. 19	Sun	at Saskatchewan	2:30
Oct. 26	Sun	WINNIPEG	2:30
Nov. 1	Sat	at B.C. Lions	7:30

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

Aug. 10	Sun	B.C. LIONS	2:00
Aug. 18	Mon	at Winnipeg	8:00
Aug. 24	Sun	OTTAWA	2:30
Sept. 1	Mon	WINNIPEG	2:30
Sept. 6	Sat	at Edmonton	7:30
Sept. 10	Wed	CALGARY	8:00
Sept. 16	Tue	at Calgary	8:00
Sept. 21	Sun	HAMILTON	2:30
Sept. 28	Sun	B.C. LIONS	2:30
Oct. 5	Sun	at Edmonton	2:30
Oct. 12	Sun	at Winnipeg	2:30
Oct. 19	Sun	EDMONTON	2:30
Oct. 25	Sat	at B.C. Lions	7:30

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

Aug. 12	Tue	at Calgary	8:00
Aug. 18	Mon	SASKATCHEWAN	8:00
Aug. 26	Tue	CALGARY	8:00
Sept. 1	Mon	at Saskatchewan	2:30
Sept. 4	Thu	at B.C. Lions	7:30
Sept. 9	Tue	B.C. LIONS	8:00
Sept. 24	Wed	HAMILTON	8:00
Oct. 2	Thu	at Toronto	8:00
Oct. 5	Sun	at Montreal	1:30
Oct. 12	Sun	SASKATCHEWAN	2:30
Oct. 19	Sun	OTTAWA	2:30
Oct. 26	Sun	at Edmonton	2:30
Nov. 2	Sun	at Calgary	2:30

EASTERN CONFERENCE

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

DATE	DAY		LOCAL TIME
Aug. 13	Wed	HAMILTON	8:00
Aug. 20	Wed	at Edmonton	7:30
Aug. 27	Wed	at Montreal	8:00
Sept. 1	Mon	at Hamilton	8:00
Sept. 7	Sun	MONTREAL	2:00
Sept. 13	Sat	at B.C. Lions	7:30
Sept. 21	Sun	CALGARY	2:00
Sept. 27	Sat	at Ottawa	2:00
Oct. 2	Thu	WINNIPEG	8:00
Oct. 13	Mon	MONTREAL	2:00
Oct. 19	Sun	at Montreal	1:30
Oct. 25	Sat	HAMILTON	2:00
Nov. 1	Sat	at Hamilton	2:00

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

Aug. 12	Tue	MONTREAL	8:00
Aug. 21	Thu	at Calgary	8:00
Aug. 24	Sun	at Saskatchewan	2:30
Sept. 3	Wed	at Montreal	8:00
Sept. 7	Sun	HAMILTON	2:00
Sept. 13	Sat	at Montreal	1:30
Sept. 17	Wed	EDMONTON	8:00
Sept. 27	Sat	TORONTO	2:00
Oct. 1	Wed	at Hamilton	8:00
Oct. 8	Wed	HAMILTON	8:00
Oct. 15	Wed	B.C. LIONS	8:00
Oct. 19	Sun	at Winnipeg	2:30
Nov. 2	Sun	MONTREAL	2:00

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

DATE	DAY		LOCAL TIME
Aug. 12	Tue	at Ottawa	8:00
Aug. 19	Tue	at Hamilton	8:00
Aug. 27	Wed	TORONTO	8:00
Sept. 3	Wed	OTTAWA	8:00
Sept. 7	Sun	at Toronto	2:00
Sept. 13	Sat	OTTAWA	1:30
Sept. 20	Sat	at B.C. Lions	7:30
Sept. 23	Tue	at Edmonton	7:30
Oct. 5	Sun	WINNIPEG	1:30
Oct. 13	Mon	at Toronto	2:00
Oct. 19	Sun	TORONTO	1:30
Oct. 26	Sun	CALGARY	1:30
Nov. 2	Sun	at Ottawa	2:00

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Aug. 13	Wed	at Toronto	8:00
Aug. 19	Tue	MONTREAL	8:00
Sept. 1	Mon	TORONTO	8:00
Sept. 7	Sun	at Ottawa	2:00
Sept. 14	Sun	EDMONTON	2:00
Sept. 21	Sun	at Saskatchewan	2:30
Sept. 24	Wed	at Winnipeg	8:00
Oct. 1	Wed	OTTAWA	8:00
Oct. 8	Wed	at Ottawa	8:00
Oct. 12	Sun	B.C. LIONS	2:00
Oct. 18	Sat	at Calgary	8:30
Oct. 25	Sat	at Toronto	2:00
Nov. 1	Sat	TORONTO	2:00

1975 SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY		LOCAL TIME	
Aug. 10	Sun	B.C. at Saskatchewan	2:00 PM	
Aug. 12	Tue	Montreal at Ottawa	8:00 PM	CBC EAST
		Winnipeg at Calgary	8:00 PM	CBC WEST
Aug. 13	Wed	Hamilton at Toronto	8:00 PM	
Aug. 14	Thur	Edmonton at B.C.	7:30 PM	
Aug. 18	Mon	Saskatchewan at Winnipeg	8:00 PM	CBC NAT
Aug. 19	Tue	Montreal at Hamilton	8:00 PM	
Aug. 20	Wed	Toronto at Edmonton	7:30 PM	CTV NAT
Aug. 21	Thur	Ottawa at Calgary	8:00 PM	CBC NAT
Aug. 24	Sun	Ottawa at Saskatchewan	2:30 PM	CTV NAT
Aug. 26	Tue	Calgary at Winnipeg	8:00 PM	
Aug. 27	Wed	Toronto at Montreal	8:00 PM	CBC EAST
		B.C. at Edmonton	7:30 PM	CBC WEST
Sept. 1	Mon	Toronto at Hamilton	8:00 PM	
		Winnipeg at Saskatchewan	2:30 PM	CBC NAT
		Edmonton at Calgary	2:30 PM	
Sept. 3	Wed	Ottawa at Montreal	8:00 PM	CTV EAST
Sept. 4	Thur	Winnipeg at B.C.	7:30 PM	
Sept. 6	Sat	Saskatchewan at Edmonton	7:30 PM	CBC NAT
Sept. 7	Sun	Montreal at Toronto	2:00 PM	
		Hamilton at Ottawa	2:00 PM	
Sept. 9	Tue	B.C. at Winnipeg	8:00 PM	
Sept. 10	Wed	Calgary at Saskatchewan	8:00 PM	CTV WEST
Sept. 13	Sat	Ottawa at Montreal	1:30 PM	
		Toronto at B.C.	7:30 PM	CBC NAT
Sept. 14	Sun	Edmonton at Hamilton	2:00 PM	CTV NAT
Sept. 16	Tue	Saskatchewan at Calgary	8:00 PM	
Sept. 17	Wed	Edmonton at Ottawa	8:00 PM	CTV NAT
Sept. 20	Sat	Montreal at B.C.	7:30 PM	CBC NAT
Sept. 21	Sun	Calgary at Toronto	2:00 PM	
		Hamilton at Saskatchewan	2:30 PM	CTV NAT
Sept. 23	Tue	Montreal at Edmonton	7:30 PM	CBC NAT
Sept. 24	Wed	Hamilton at Winnipeg	8:00 PM	CTV NAT
Sept. 27	Sat	Toronto at Ottawa	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
Sept. 28	Sun	B.C. at Saskatchewan	2:30 PM	CTV NAT
		Edmonton at Calgary	2:30 PM	
Oct. 1	Wed	Ottawa at Hamilton	8:00 PM	CBC NAT
Oct. 2	Thur	Winnipeg at Toronto	8:00 PM	
Oct. 4	Sat	Calgary at B.C.	7:30 PM	CBC NAT
Oct. 5	Sun	Winnipeg at Montreal	1:30 PM	CTV NAT
		Saskatchewan at Edmonton	2:30 PM	
Oct. 8	Wed	Hamilton at Ottawa	8:00 PM	CBC NAT
Oct. 12	Sun	B.C. at Hamilton	2:00 PM	CTV NAT
		Saskatchewan at Winnipeg	2:30 PM	
Oct. 13	Mon	Montreal at Toronto	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
		Calgary at Edmonton	2:30 PM	CTV NAT
Oct. 15	Wed	B.C. at Ottawa	8:00 PM	
Oct. 18	Sat	Hamilton at Calgary	8:30 PM	CBC NAT
Oct. 19	Sun	Toronto at Montreal	1:30 PM	CTV EAST
		Ottawa at Winnipeg	2:30 PM	
		Edmonton at Saskatchewan	2:30 PM	CTV NAT
Oct. 25	Sat	Hamilton at Toronto	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
		Saskatchewan at B.C.	7:30 PM	CBC WEST
Oct. 26	Sun	Calgary at Montreal	1:30 PM	CTV NAT
		Winnipeg at Edmonton	2:30 PM	
Nov. 1	Sat	Toronto at Hamilton	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
		Edmonton at B.C.	7:30 PM	CBC WEST
Nov. 2	Sun	Montreal at Ottawa	2:00 PM	CTV EAST
		Winnipeg at Calgary	2:30 PM	CTV WEST

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Nov. 8	Sat	West Semi Final	2:00 PM	CTV NAT
Nov. 9	Sun	East Semi Final	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
Nov. 15	Sat	East Final	2:00 PM	CTV NAT
Nov. 16	Sun	West Final	2:00 PM	CBC NAT
Nov. 23	Sun	GREY CUP GAME IN CALGARY	1:30 PM	CBC-CTV NAT

1974 FINAL SCORES

July 24—Hamilton 12 ..... Montreal 20
July 25—Ottawa 3 ..... Toronto 19
Calgary 20 ..... B.C. 23
July 26—Saskatchewan 7 ..... Edmonton 31
July 30—Toronto 22 ..... Hamilton 26
July 31—Ottawa 17 ..... Montreal 20
B.C. 29 ..... Winnipeg 22
Saskatchewan 24 ..... Calgary 18
Aug. 5—Calgary 6 ..... Edmonton 20
Aug. 6—Hamilton 25 ..... Ottawa 30
Aug. 7—Montreal 42 ..... Toronto 25
Aug. 8—Winnipeg 6 ..... B.C. 26
Aug. 9—Edmonton 23 ..... Saskatchewan 24
Aug. 13—Montreal 14 ..... Ottawa 27
Aug. 14—Hamilton 6 ..... Toronto 17
B.C. 18 ..... Calgary 20
Aug. 16—Winnipeg 13 ..... Saskatchewan 24
Aug. 19—Ottawa 6 ..... Edmonton 23
Aug. 20—Montreal 7 ..... Hamilton 11
Aug. 21—Toronto 13 ..... Winnipeg 18
Saskatchewan 10 ..... Calgary 8
Aug. 22—Ottawa 9 ..... B.C. 4
Aug. 25—Toronto 17 ..... Saskatchewan 13
Hamilton 10 ..... Montreal 26
Aug. 27—B.C. 21 ..... Edmonton 15
Aug. 28—Calgary 30 ..... Winnipeg 31
Sept. 2—Ottawa 10 ..... Hamilton 11
Winnipeg 20 ..... Saskatchewan 18
Edmonton 20 ..... Calgary 16
Sept. 3—Montreal 16 ..... Ottawa 10
Sept. 7—Hamilton 16 ..... Ottawa 10
Saskatchewan 38 ..... B.C. 16
Sept. 8—Toronto 6 ..... Montreal 38
Winnipeg 2 ..... Edmonton 24
Sept. 11—Calgary 0 ..... Hamilton 27
Sept. 12—B.C. 26 ..... Toronto 24
Sept. 13—Edmonton 24 ..... Saskatchewan 18
Sept. 14—Calgary 16 ..... Ottawa 9
Sept. 15—B.C. 12 ..... Montreal 31
Sept. 18—Saskatchewan 10 ..... Hamilton 23
Edmonton 13 ..... Winnipeg 19
Sept. 19—Ottawa 29 ..... Toronto 12
Sept. 21—Winnipeg 10 ..... B.C. 28
Sept. 22—Saskatchewan 6 ..... Ottawa 24
Sept. 24—Montreal 13 ..... Calgary 38
Sept. 25—Hamilton 29 ..... Edmonton 31
Sept. 28—Montreal 15 ..... Winnipeg 24
Sept. 29—Toronto 19 ..... Ottawa 7
Calgary 10 ..... Saskatchewan 34
Hamilton 10 ..... B.C. 32
Oct. 5—Edmonton 20 ..... Toronto 22
Oct. 6—Ottawa 33 ..... Hamilton 21
Saskatchewan 21 ..... Winnipeg 24
B.C. 20 ..... Calgary 7
Oct. 8—Edmonton 28 ..... Montreal 28
Oct. 12—Winnipeg 10 ..... Ottawa 27
Oct. 13—Toronto 13 ..... Montreal 13
B.C. 15 ..... Saskatchewan 17
Oct. 14—Winnipeg 19 ..... Hamilton 12
Calgary 24 ..... Edmonton 10
Oct. 19—Saskatchewan 24 ..... B.C. 21
Oct. 20—Montreal 28 ..... Ottawa 0
Edmonton 17 ..... Winnipeg 10
Toronto 18 ..... Calgary 21
Oct. 26—B.C. 8 ..... Edmonton 31
Oct. 27—Hamilton 11 ..... Toronto 19
Montreal 2 ..... Saskatchewan 17
Winnipeg 11 ..... Calgary 44
Nov. 2—Ottawa 20 ..... Montreal 27
Edmonton 15 ..... B.C. 7
Nov. 3—Toronto 24 ..... Hamilton 26
Calgary 9 ..... Winnipeg 19

1974 CFL PLAYOFF SCORES

Eastern Conference Semi-Final:
Ottawa 21, Hamilton 19

Eastern Conference Final:
Montreal 14, Ottawa 4

Western Conference Semi-Final:
Saskatchewan 24, B.C. Lions 14

Western Conference Final:
Edmonton 31, Saskatchewan 27

Grey Cup:
Montreal 20, Edmonton 7

"HERE IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE"

Since our twelfth (1972) PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL, we have played the yearly game, "Identify This Team." By analyzing a series of clues, readers, who care to indulge, have worked on our puzzle with varying results. Each year we receive a number of letters from puzzle devotees who have told us how quickly they have solved it, or telling us the method used. Others have taken advantage of our offer to send the solution to those who send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A few who have failed one year, but who have found the "key" another year, have retraced their steps and worked previous puzzles.

There is a simple pencil-and-paper formula which is the key to the solution. Many who have found this "key" have asked us not to reveal it in this publication, since it lessens their advantage over the neighborhood puzzle novice. But our solution, of course, reveals the key to those who send for it.

There may be several methods which lead to the single set of correct answers. Our method is only one.

Should you wish to tell us how you worked the puzzle, or should you care to see our solution (be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope), write to:

PRO FOOTBALL ANNUAL
Petersen Publishing Co.
8490 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90069

In the 40-question quiz on pages 190-191, every answer will be found on the first 189 pages of this book. But in case you want all 40 answers in one place, or you're a cheater-as-you-go, see page 192.

PETERSEN'S PRO PUZZLE

A (mythical?) pro football team's 11-man offensive platoon was relaxing in the dressing room before a game and the men were comparing notes and backgrounds on each other.

Six of them in one group were measuring their individual heights (the other five were to measure a little later). They found that John was a full four inches shorter than the right guard. Rick and the quarterback were the same size, both taller than the previous two. The tallest of the six (the team's only player from the Big Ten), was one inch taller than Don, who was taller than Rick and also taller than the quarterback.

Larry and the right end were comparing their separate colleges, which were located in the same state, and later they discovered that both were the same height as Herm.

On the scales, Jim learned that he was one of only two players on the platoon to weigh in at under 200 pounds. He was 57 pounds lighter than the two heaviest men, but 18 pounds heavier than the halfback.

While Bill and the flanker were discussing college football as they had played it for schools on opposite coasts, Herm was tossing a football in the air, saying, "Gotta touch one of these things sometime. I never will touch one in a game, unless I fall on a fumble."

The lightest man on the team weighed 180. He discovered also that he was not only the shortest, but he was six inches shy of the left guard. But Dick was taller than both of them.

A discussion on the subject of transportation brought out the interesting point that 10 of the 11 men had played college football in states which regularly harbored sea-going ships, sailing directly to most all of the ports of the world. The 10 included Stan, Will, Ed, the left end and the halfback.

Stan and Don were comparing notes on their common alma mater, and the fact that they play almost identical positions on this team. Ed then joined Stan and Don, and when the three checked their measurements, they found that Ed was smaller than one, taller than the other. But the right tackle topped the three of them on the height chart.

Bill had a long chat with the fullback, to see if he could learn why the fullback had exceeded Bill's eight pass receptions by such a wide margin.

Six of the 11 players each thought he might be the tallest, but it turned out to be a six-way tie for top-inch honors among Bill, Jim, Dick, the left tackle, the right end and the center.

The fullback, the left tackle and Jim recalled that they all had played their college football for teams in the same state.

Rick and the right end were comparing the pass routes they are called upon to run. Onlookers Stan and Ed were silent. They never are potential pass receivers nor ball carriers. And only the quarterback throws passes.

This offensive platoon bears a striking resemblance to a pro football team's offensive lineup which existed at one time. Can you give the first names of the men on this platoon, and the positions they play? Which player is from the Big Ten? Do you recognize the similarity between this team and a certain pro football team of yesterday?

"Ring Around a Rosy"

HALL OF FAME PHOTO CONTEST
FIRST PLACE WINNER BLACK AND WHITE ACTION
ELWOOD P. WMITH, *PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS*

"OKAY, NOW TRY THE QUIZ"

PETERSEN'S PRO FOOTBALL QUIZ

1) In 1974, the new NFL rules resulted in _____ percent fewer field goals attempted.
A—9 percent
B—18 percent
C—27 percent
D—36 percent

2) Kyle Rote and Norm Van Brocklin were leaders in forming an NFL players association in
A—1956
B—1958
C—1960
D—1962

3) For 1975, CBS has hired a veteran National League baseball broadcaster to add to its NFL play-by-play crew. He is
A—Vince Doyle
B—Gregg Jordan
C—J.P. McCarthy
D—Vin Scully

4) The trophy awarded to the winning Super Bowl team is the
A—Bert Bell Memorial Trophy
B—Vince Lombardi Memorial Trophy
C—George Marshall Memorial Trophy
D—Daniel Reeves Memorial Trophy

5) Bobby Layne was traded from the Bulldogs to the Lions and from the Lions to the Steelers. How many years did he play for Detroit?
A—4
B—6
C—8
D—10

6) Johnny Unitas led the Baltimore Colts to the NFL title in his _____ year as an NFL QB.
A—23rd
B—19th
C—9th
D—3rd

7) Computer analyst and former QB Virgil Carter played for three of the following teams but not for
A—Baltimore
B—Buffalo
C—Chicago Bears
D—Cincinnati

8) When Fran Tarkenton's injury forced him out of the 1975 Pro Bowl game, his replacement became the game's MVP. He was
A—Jack Concannon
B—John Hadl
C—James Harris
D—Jim Hart

9) In 1973, the Houston Oilers were 1-13-0. In 1974 they were
A—8-6-0
B—7-7-0
C—7-6-1
D—6-7-1

10) A famous Pittsburgh rookie who led the NFL in ball carrying in 1938 was
A—Johnny Blood
B—Bill Dudley
C—C.J. Inabinet
D—Whizzer White

11) In 1974, the Cleveland Browns finished _____ in the NFL in total team defense.
A—23rd
B—19th
C—9th
D—3rd

12) Grambling University has sent many star players into pro football. For many years the Grambling head coach has been
A—Jake Gaither
B—Floyd Iglehart
C—DeDe Moore
D—Eddie Robinson

13) In 1974, Otis Armstrong led the NFL in ball carrying with _____ yards.
A—1207
B—1394
C—1407
D—1594

14) In Super Bowl IX, Minnesota's six points were scored by
A—Terry Brown
B—Fred Cox
C—Chuck Foreman
D—John Gilliam

15) In the last six weeks of 1974, this team went from 1-7-0 to 7-7-0.
A—Cincinnati
B—Houston
C—New England
D—New York Jets

16) In 1974, the Buffalo Bills finished _____ in the NFL in total team offense.
A—23rd
B—19th
C—9th
D—3rd

17) A certain block of 250 shares of Washington Redskins stock has been owned by three of these men but not by
A—Jack Kent Cooke
B—Max Furchgott
C—Ed Reeves
D—Harry Wismer

18) In four years Oakland's Fred Biletnikoff can become the NFL's all-time most prolific pass receiver, if he averages _____ catches per year.
A—46
B—51
C—56
D—61

19) This runner gained 883 yards in 1974, falling below 1000 for the first time in his four-year career.
A—Jim Bertelsen
B—Rocky Bleier
C—John Brockington
D—Larry Brown

20) Jim Finks, former great TB-QB with the Pittsburgh Steelers, now is an NFL general manager at
A—Buffalo
B—Chicago
C—Minnesota
D—Pittsburgh

21) The Pittsburgh Steelers had the original NFL rights to three of these quarterbacks, but not
A—George Blanda
B—Bobby Layne
C—Sid Luckman
D—Johnny Unitas

22) The Baltimore Colts won Super Bowl V on a field goal by
A—Bru Boineau
B—Jim O'Brien
C—Boris Shlapak
D—R.G. Smith

23) In a regular season game in 1974, the Pittsburgh Steelers gained only 84 yards total offense against
A—Cincinnati
B—Cleveland
C—Houston
D—New York Jets

24) Since the maturity factor charts have been kept (10 years) only one team from the lower half of the maturity ratings has become the NFL champion.
A—Dallas '71
B—Miami '72
C—Miami '73
D—Pittsburgh '74

25) In the last 10 years, the most mature team, from the standpoint of pro experience, at the finish of an NFL season was
A—Washington '74
B—Minnesota '73
C—Baltimore '70
D—New England '70

26) A 1975 Ram draft choice will complete a two-year commitment to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar before playing in a regular season NFL game. He is
A—Pat Haden
B—Dennis Harrah
C—Dan Nugent
D—Geoff Reece

27) At one time, Art Rooney offered the Pittsburgh head coaching job to Joe Paterno, who turned it down. Immediately after that, Rooney hired
A—Bill Austin
B—Ted Marchibroda
C—Chuck Noll
D—Joe Yule, Jr.

28) If he plays this year, Lenny Dawson of Kansas City will be in his _____ season.
A—23rd
B—19th
C—9th
D—3rd

29) In 1952, the Rams traded 11 players to get one player, who served the military for two years before his pro debut. He was
A—Ollie Matson
B—Les Richter
C—Norm Van Brocklin
D—Bill Wade

30) Coach Don Shula's first year at Miami was
A—1967
B—1968
C—1969
D—1970

31) When the Washington Redskins dominated the NFL in their first year in Washington, 1937, the signal-calling quarterback was
A—Cliff Battles
B—Sammy Baugh
C—Riley Smith
D—Dick Todd

32) In the 1974 NFC forward passing stats, Sonny Jurgensen (now retired) was the top-rated passer. Ranked number two was
A—John Hadl
B—James Harris
C—Bert Jones
D—Billy Kilmer

33) The NFC's top percentage field goal kicker twice in the last three years has been
A—Fred Cox
B—Bruce Gossett
C—Errol Mann
D—David Ray

34) Star Cincinnati defensive tackle Mike Reid recently announced his retirement. Among other accomplishments, he is a
A—ballistics designer
B—concert pianist
C—nuclear physicist
D—space lab engineer

35) San Diego coach Tommy Prothro has trimmed more than 50 pounds off his recent top weight of
A—270
B—280
C—290
D—300

36) The Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl IX was
A—Terry Bradshaw
B—Joe Greene
C—Franco Harris
D—Andy Russell

37) The last of the NFL's pre-World War II franchises to win an NFL championship were the
A—Chicago (now St. Louis) Cardinals
B—Green Bay Packers
C—Philadelphia Eagles
D—Pittsburgh Steelers

38) Mike Lucci was traded from Cleveland to Detroit in a three-way deal which saw the Lions trade away
A—Leon Hart
B—Bobby Layne
C—Bobby Mann
D—Earl Morrall

39) When coach Chuck Noll and tackle Joe Greene were both Steeler rookies, the team record that season was
A—1-13-0
B—2-12-0
C—3-11-0
D—4-10-0

40) In 1953, the Detroit Lions won the NFL championship game, 17-16, on a famous last minute 33-yard pass from Bobby Layne to
A—Cloyce Box
B—Dorne Dibble
C—Jim Doran
D—Doak Walker

(Answers on page 192)

QUIZ ANSWERS

(Quiz: Pages 190-191)

1) D–36
2) A–1956
3) D–Vin Scully
4) B–Vince Lombardi Memorial Trophy
5) C–8 years
6) D–3rd
7) A–Baltimore
8) C–James Harris
9) B–7-7-0
10) D–Whizzer White
11) A–23rd
12) D–Eddie Robinson
13) C–1407
14) A–Terry Brown
15) D–New York Jets
16) A–23rd
17) B–Max Furchgott
18) A–46
19) C–John Brockington
20) B–Chicago
21) A–George Blanda
22) B–Jim O'Brien
23) C–Houston
24) D–Pittsburgh '74
25) A–Washington '74
26) A–Pat Haden
27) C–Chuck Noll
28) B–19th
29) B–Les Richter
30) D–1970
31) C–Riley Smith
32) B–James Harris
33) C–Errol Mann
34) B–concert pianist
35) B–280
36) C–Franco Harris
37) D–Pittsburgh Steelers
38) D–Earl Morrall
39) A–1-13-0
40) C–Jim Doran

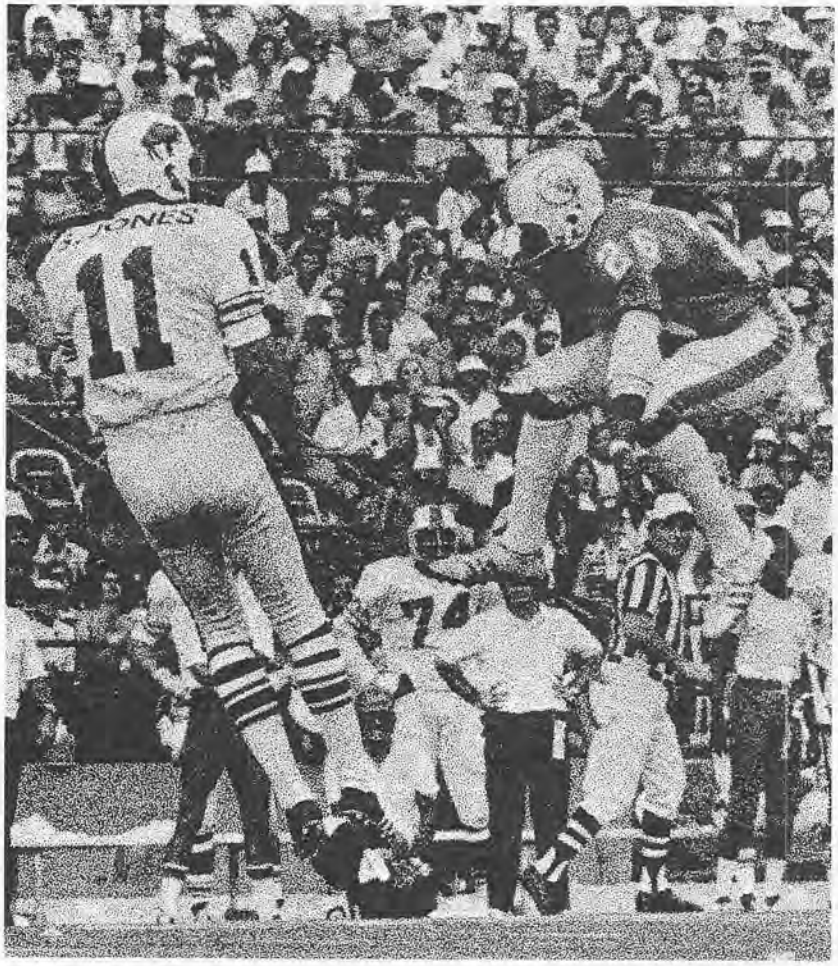


PHOTO BY VERNON J. BIEVER

EPILOGUE

A book should be read from start to finish—from left to right—and if you have read this one in that fashion, it has just now changed character, from a book to a miniature reference library for the season.

So we suggest that you keep it by your TV set until after the Super Bowl. Player rosters, game official rosters, last year's stats and game results, this year's schedule and predictions all go to make this a handy-dandy reference book.

Even then, when the season is finished, we suggest that this book become a part of your permanent sports library. When the era of the '70s has become nostalgia, you might find it interesting to go back to these annuals to get the play-by-plays of the Super Bowls, the progress of the teams through the maturity factor and easy/tough schedule charts and the won/lost standings.

And who knows when the player we write a story about today might become a Supreme Court Justice tomorrow.

And, the ecology and economy willing, we'll likely be looking at you again, for the 16th year, from your friendly neighborhood 1976 newsstand.

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